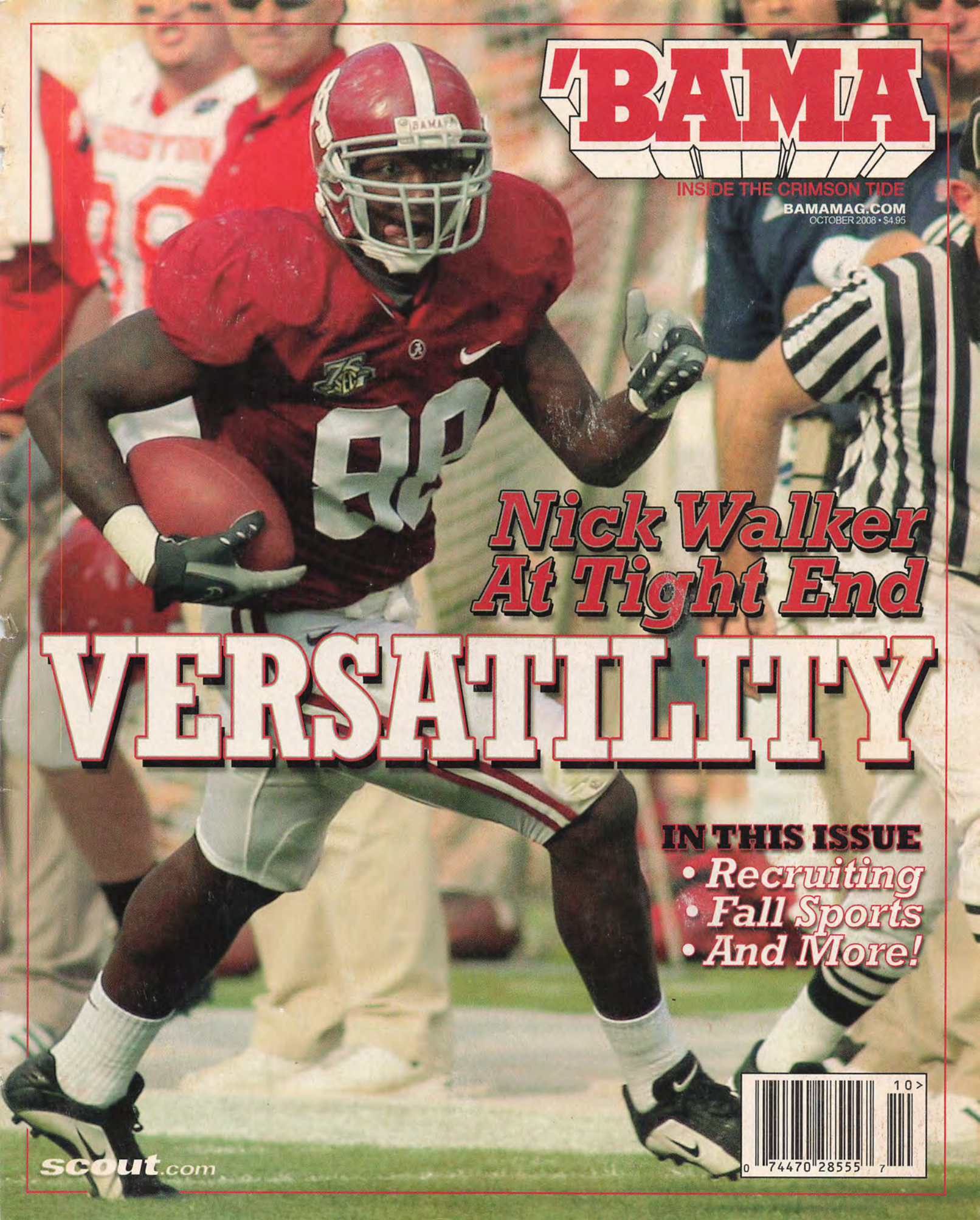


'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

BAMAMAG.COM
OCTOBER 2008 • $4.95

Nick Walker At Tight End

VERSATILITY

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Recruiting*
- *Fall Sports*
- *And More!*

10>
0 74470 28555 7

scout.com

ITS 20GB HARD DRIVE ONLY ADDS TO ITS PERFORMANCE.

ALL-NEW DODGE AVENGER. MyGIG™ Multimedia Infotainment System* | Six-speaker Boston Acoustics® sound system† | Heated and cooled cup holder† | 3.5L V6 with 6-speed AutoStick®† | Let the performance begin | **DODGE.COM/AVENGER**

*MyGIG in-dash DVD capability is not available in all states. See your dealer for details. †Available.
Chrysler Financial is a business unit of DaimlerChrysler Financial Services.

Chrysler Financial

BUCKLE UP

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS

DODGE

'BAMA
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

October 2008

Volume 31 • Issue Two

Features

7 **Tough Guy**
Rolando McClain handles the pain
by Kirk McNair

10 **Surprising Strength**
Alabama has plans to use tight ends
by Cary L. Clark

13 **Predicting 2008 College Football's Best Games**
by WhatIfSports.com

18 **Making His Name**
Leigh Tiffin son of one of Bama's best
by Kirk McNair

22 **Help Wanted**
Men's basketball has grants to give
by 'BAMA Staff

24 **Green Not Singing Blues**
Despite losses, volleyball expects to be strong
by Kirk McNair

27 **Make It Quick**
New soccer coach wants to win immediately
by Kirk McNair

30 **Reasonable Goals**
Cross country teams run for success
by Kirk McNair

33 **Seasonally Adjusted**
Spring sports have fall work
by 'BAMA Staff

35 **Prep Prospects**
A look at top big men in Alabama
by Andrew Bone

40 **Where Are They Now?**
Shelby ran into hearts of fans
by A.P. Steadham

Departments

6 **Letter From Editor**

19 **Alabama Football Reporting Roster**

20 **Fall Sports Schedules**

39 **Football Hot List**

43 **'BAMA Scorecard**

Cover photo of Nick Walker by Cory Johnson

Buried in Credit Card Debt?

Over $10,000 in credit card bills?
Only making the minimum payments?

- **We can get you out of debt in months instead of years**
- **We can save you thousands of dollars**
- **We can help you avoid bankruptcy**

Not a high-priced consolidation loan or one of those consumer credit counseling programs

Call
CREDIT CARD RELIEF
for your FREE consultation
866-360-5151

Not available in all states

Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

There are a few things I take for granted regarding the readers of 'BAMA Magazine. One is that we are producing this publication for fans of the Crimson Tide. We know there are a few exceptions—very few—such as athletics departments of other schools. For the most part, subscriptions to those go to the football recruiting coordinator. Just another source of prospects, perhaps, and for all I know Alabama's football staff subscribes to publications covering other schools. I suppose some of the photographs in 'BAMA end up on bulletin boards at other schools, too.

Nevertheless, no one would mistake 'BAMA for anything other than positive towards The University and its athletics program.

I am amazed at some of the things I see in newspapers around the state of Alabama. I think some of them must have taken a survey and discovered that 48 per cent of their readers were Alabama fans, so they decided to appeal to the other 52 per cent, made up of fans of other schools or not fans at all. I also notice that newspaper circulation is sinking. I'll miss the newspapers when they are gone.

Another thing I take for granted is that most of my readers have an understanding of football. "What wins games?" has been a rhetorical question asked for decades by coaches, who answer, "Blocking and tackling." There is that, and I don't minimize it. But there is also running and passing and catching and kicking and not having penalties at critical moments. And a lot of other things, including having the right players in the right place at the right time.

And there is luck. Some think that Alabama has been unlucky to have Southeastern Conference officials calling Bama's SEC games for the past 15 or so years.

An elemental truth of football is that there are 11 men on a side, be it offense, defense or special teams. Alabama Coach Nick Saban had an interesting answer to the question about how many positions that entailed. There are a lot of them in use by Alabama and over the years (days of the Notre Dame box or the Wishbone) there have been even more.

Just as a quick for instance, the Crimson Tide would include in those 11 offensive positions two guards, two tackles, a center and quarterback regardless of the formation. Beyond that there could be zero to three tight ends (one of which could be in a slot), zero to five wide receivers (some of them "backs" and some of them "linemen"), zero to two halfbacks, zero or one fullback. And they can be used in a lot of combinations.

On defense we all know of four, five (nickel) and six (dime) defensive back alignments. In goal line and short yardage situations there might be an extra lineman or two. There are four-three and three-four and five-two bases.

Saban pointed out that the "multiples" enable a team to utilize more players. And, he said, that is good for team morale.

I hope the newspapers don't take offense at that. ■

Sincerely,
Kirk McNair
Editor

Vol. 31, Issue 2 (ISSN 0195-0975 USPS 489-470) October, 2008
'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine is published monthly, 10 times a year (September-June) by Scout Publishing, LLC 2003 Western Ave, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98121. Basic subscription rate is $44.95. Single copy price is $4.95. SUBSCRIBERS: If the post office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligations unless we receive a corrected address. POSTMASTER: Please send all change of address forms to: 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide 1916 Pike Place, Suite 12-250, Seattle, WA 98101-1097. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA and additional mailing offices. Please allow three weeks for change of address. Reproduction or use, in whole or in part, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is strictly prohibited without the prior express written permission of Scout Publishing. All letters to 'BAMA magazine will be treated as intended for publication and are subject to 'BAMA magazine's unrestricted right to edit. Publisher is not responsible for any unsolicited art, photographs or manuscripts. 'BAMA magazine is an independent source of news and features relating to Alabama athletic programs. Scout Publishing, 'BAMA magazine and their officers, directors and stockholders are not authorized, sponsored or sanctioned by any university, athletic conference, or athletic governing body or any of their agencies. © 2008 Scout Publishing, LLC and 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine. All rights reserved.

'BAMA
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Scout Publishing, LLC.

Senior Director, Scout Publishing
Alan McDonald

Executive Director, Network Development & Marketing
Joel Cox

Director Of Scouting
Scott Kennedy

Advertising & Sponsorships
Eddie Pauline

Ad Traffic Manager
Mike Dempsey

Recruiting Editor
Dave Telep

Photography
Getty Images

Creative Director
Jay Torrell

Production Manager
Shannon Coffey

Graphic Designer
Garth French

'Bama, Inside The Crimson Tide

Editor
Kirk McNair

Recruiting Reporter
Andrew Bone

Feature Reporters
Gentry Estes, Cary L. Clark, Peter Edmund, Andrew Varble II, Walter Bostock, Arnold P. Steadham, Becky Hopf, Scott Latta, Lindsay Laurent

Photos
Kent Gidley
Barry Fikes
Benjamin Cohen
Butch Dill
Stuart McNair
Cory Johnson
Jessica Smith
Camelle Sizemore

Assistant To Editor
Vera Dowdle

Subscriptions: Order online at bamamag.com (reduced online rate $39.95) or call 888-979-0979.

Customer Service: Call 888-979-0979

To Advertise in 'Bama, inside the crimson tide:
Contact Dwight Johnson at Dwight@Scout.com
OR
Mitch Green at 1-800-239-9090.

FOOTBALL BY KIRK McNAIR

Tough Guy

Rolando McClain handles the pain

Rolando McClain doesn't have anything else to prove insofar as toughness is concerned. There's little doubt that Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban and everyone else involved with the Crimson Tide wants McClain to confine physical trauma to opposing football players.

McClain may get some of the hurts that come from playing middle linebacker, but he has shown he can handle those. As much as anyone, McClain was responsible for Alabama's win over Colorado in the Independence Bowl at the end of last year. McClain suffered a broken thumb and dislocated shoulder in that game, and kept playing.

A tougher opponent knocked him down in the summer. The road doesn't lose when a motorcyclist has an accident.

McClain has a new respect for motorcycles. What he doesn't have is a motorcycle. His Suzuki GSX-R 1000 was totaled on May 8 when he swerved to avoid another vehicle in his hometown of Decatur. The motorcycle spun out. McClain had a rough encounter with the asphalt.

The motorcycle was destroyed, but fortunately for Alabama football Rolando McClain is a tough guy. When he first met with the press after returning for fall camp, he said he was back to "about 98 per cent." He showed off scarred hands and arms from the abrasions. McClain, a 6-4, 255-pound middle linebacker, seemed even closer to 100 per cent a few days later when the Crimson Tide had its first scrimmage and he was the defensive leader.

"My mom won't let me say I was lucky," McClain said of his avoiding more serious injury in his accident. "I was blessed. Now I'm the poster child for not riding a motorcycle."

McClain probably will have another motorcycle one day, he said. He has ridden dirt bikes and four-wheelers in the past. And when he finished his first year of college, a Freshman All-America and a Southeastern Conference Freshman Academic Team member, he knew what he wanted. "It was being 18," he said. If he buys another one it will possibly be with his pro football signing bonus money.

"I don't know if you'd say Coach Saban made them against the rules," McClain said, "but he told me not to ride one again."

He said the coach didn't criticize him. "There's not much you can say to a guy who was beat up like I was beat up," McClain said. "He just wanted me to get better."

McClain said he got excellent care at Decatur General Hospital. He had mostly bed rest for a couple of weeks. "I had a bike in my house, and Jeff (Alabama Football Trainer Jeff Allen) wanted me riding it. Not a motorbike," he added.

His rehabilitation was hampered a bit by a scar he didn't show reporters. In the motorcycle accident he also suffered a hole in his foot from where he hit the gravel.

He said he also had nightmares about the accident for a while, "but I'm over it now."

Alabama has a shortage of linebackers, and Saban wouldn't want to be without McClain, although McClain downplayed that. "If he didn't have me, he would have gone out and recruited someone else," the sophomore said.

Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson sees McClain from a different perspective. "He's a special athlete," Wilson said, contemplating the question of the linebacker's motorcycle accident. "We'd be a different team if he wasn't there."

As a sophomore, McClain is a pre-season All-SEC selection. Last year he had 75 tackles, including a season-high

Crimson Sunsets
Are just one of our amenities.
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE RESORT STATE PARK
LODGE, HOTEL, CABINS, CHALETS, CAMPGROUND
Nature never looked so good!
■Overlooking majestic Lake Guntersville ■18-Hole Championship Golf Course
■Select from new hotel rooms and suites, to mountaintop chalets and lakeside cottages
■Modern lakeside campground and beach complex ■Fishing center with boat rental
■Full service restaurant and Convention Center ■Quiet retreat yet close to shops
COME EXPERIENCE OUR GRAND RENOVATION!
www.VisitLakeGuntersville.com / (800) 548-4553

Rolando McClain is leader of Tide defense

University of Alabama

15 at Auburn. He also had five tackles for loss, a sack, four pass break-ups, three quarterback hurries and two interceptions. He had an outstanding game in the Independence Bowl win over Colorado in spite of having to play with a broken thumb and dislocated shoulder. His thumb was still in a cast through spring practice.

He started eight games at middle linebacker as a freshman and generally split time with 2006 starter Prince Hall at the position.

Last year McClain was accompanied in Bama's three-four defense by weakside linebacker Darren Mustin, strongside linebacker Ezekial Knight, and jack linebacker Keith Saunders. Now McClain doesn't have Mustin and Saunders, who have graduated. He doesn't have Knight who has been forced to give up football at Alabama for health reasons. He doesn't even have Hall for the moment, Hall having been suspended for at least the first three games of the year. He certainly doesn't have Jimmy Johns, the former tailback who was the talk of spring practice because of his move to linebacker and the talk of summer because of his arrest on drug trafficking charges that resulted in his dismissal from the team.

And so at 19 years old, Rolando McClain is the veteran of the linebacker corps. He's also the leader. Midway through pre-season camp, Saban talked about the upperclassmen at each position who had pleased him with their leadership skills. At linebacker he listed McClain

"I feel a lot better this year because I know the defense," McClain said. "It's a lot less stressful. The hardest part of it is the learning. Fortunately, I've been blessed to be able to pick things up pretty quickly. I'm relaxed, so I can play faster because I see things faster."

McClain said that was important in his freshman season last year. "I had to be a leader when I came here," he said. "It's a challenge for a young linebacker. I try to help the guys around me as much as I can because I know what they are going through."

Charlie Higgenbotham, who is also working at inside linebacker, said, "Rolando is real intense. He has a lot of energy. He does a great job of trying to motivate everyone around him."

McClain's position coach is Kevin Steele, who is also assistant head coach for defense. "I love Coach Steele,"

McClain said. "He's wired like me. He goes hard all the time."

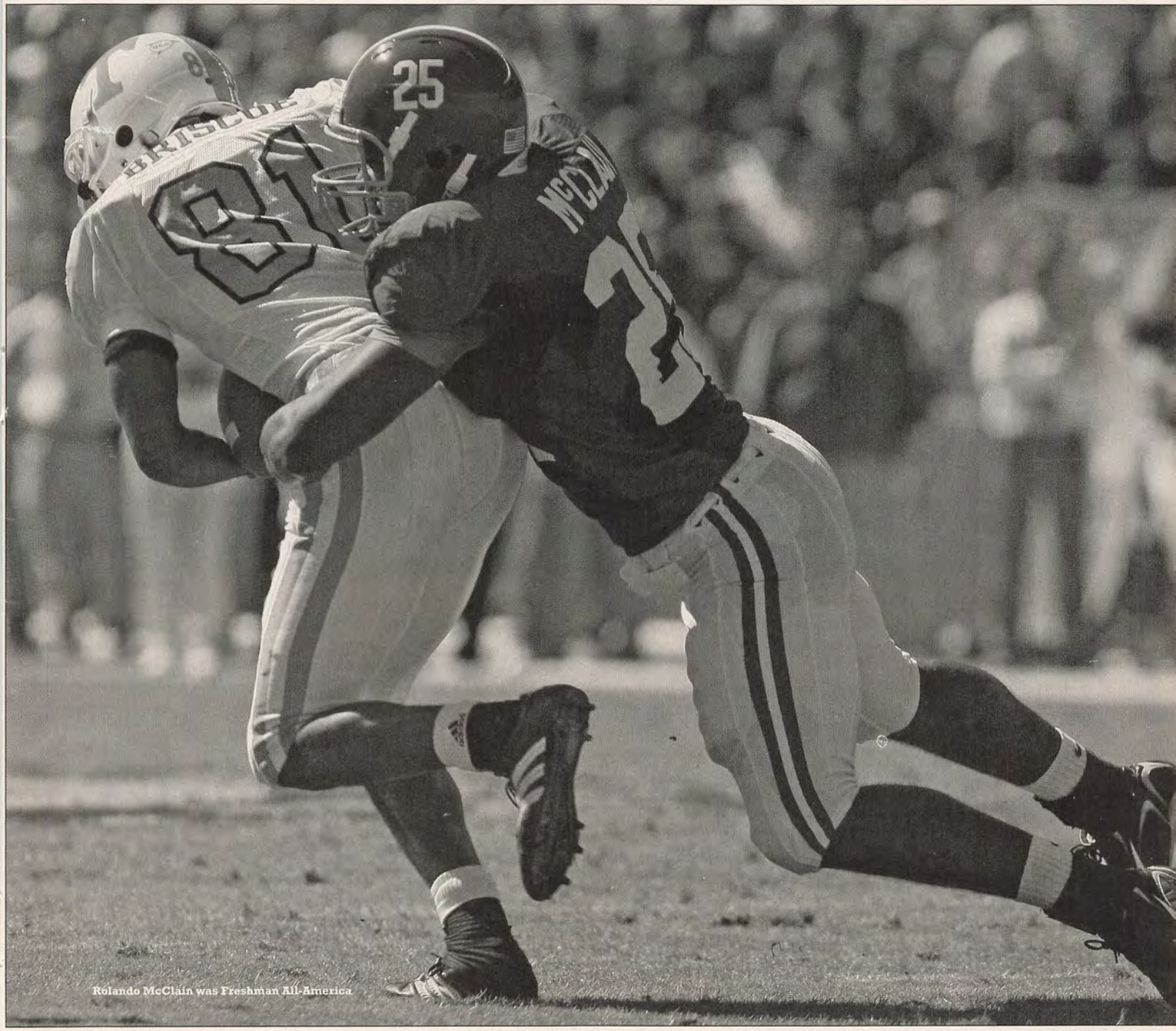
Steele said that McClain "is very, very intelligent. He's intelligent in the classroom and he's intelligent on the football field. He understands the game through a coach's eyes. And then he has that size and speed, and that can be a lethal combination.

"He's confident because he understands. He's an upbeat guy who has applied his personality to helping the other guys."

McClain said he hopes that by knowing his assignments, Steele "doesn't have to coach me and he can spend that time coaching other guys."

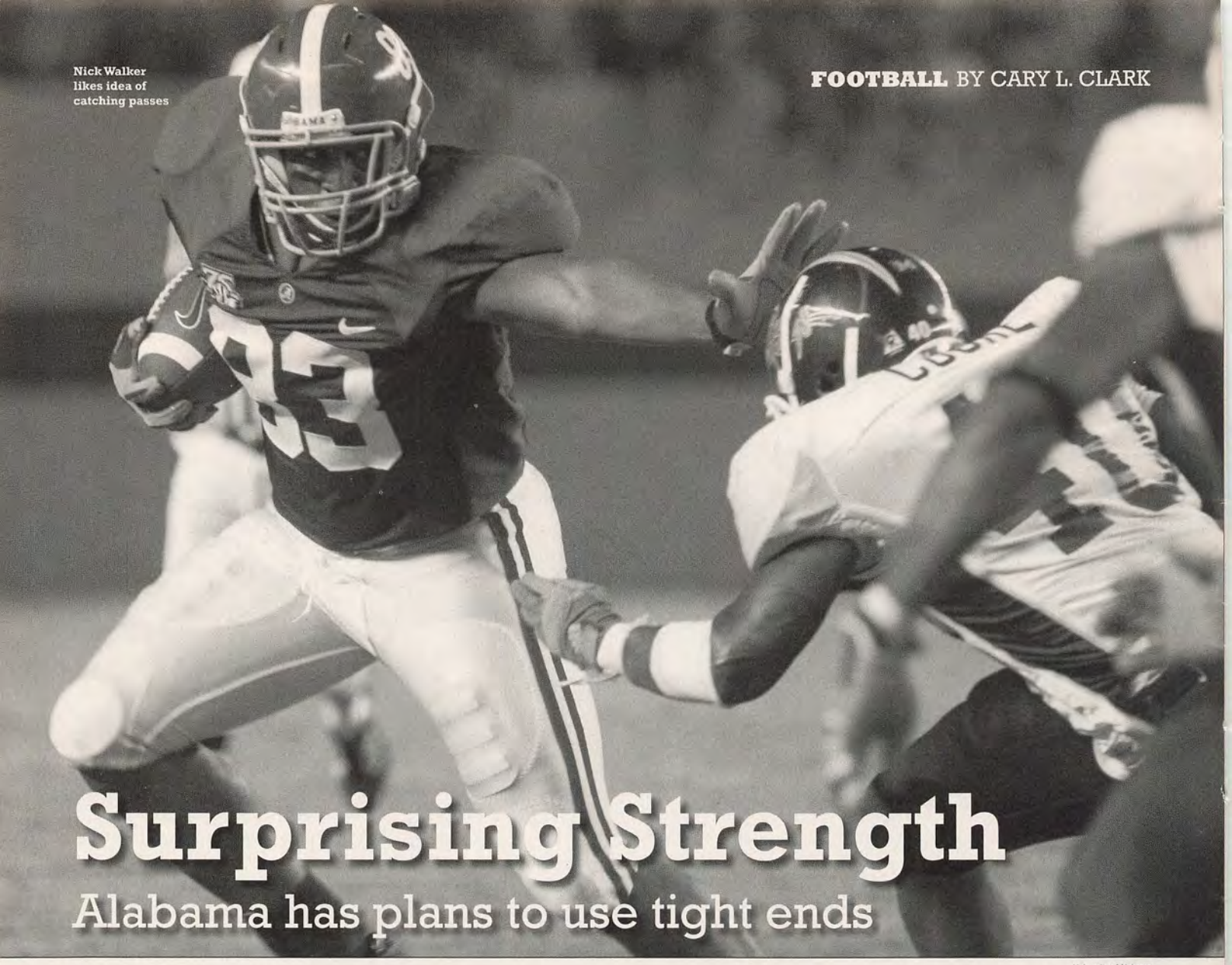
Saban has noted that freshmen such as Jerrell Harris, Dont'a Hightower and Courtney Upshaw may have to provide immediate depth. McClain said, "I give those guys all an 'A.' They have worked hard and studied hard to learn their assignments. Coach Saban and his coaches went out and got a great group of linebackers. They are giving great effort to get better. They want to learn it all."

McClain said that learning process was a "series of stepping stones. You have to learn one play at a time. That's all you can do." ■



Rolando McClain was Freshman All-America

University of Alabama



Nick Walker likes idea of catching passes

FOOTBALL BY CARY L. CLARK

Surprising Strength

Alabama has plans to use tight ends

University of Alabama

It may be the second favorite mantra of the Alabama football fan, right after calling for the back-up quarterback. "Why don't we throw to the tight end?" has been a regular Bama fan question for the last 18 years.

Not since 1990, when Bama's tight ends caught 40 balls (led by the 28 of Lamonde Russell), has the position been much more than a glorified blocker in the Crimson Tide offense. That changed, to a degree, in the first year of the Nick Saban era in Tuscaloosa. Last year, led by Nick Walker's 23 catches, Bama tight ends gathered in 30 balls. That was, indeed, the best output by the position since Russell and Company 18 years ago.

Enter first year Offensive Coordinator Jim McElwain, who, like Saban, believes in using all eligible receivers. McElwain and his boss realize that with Walker, senior Travis McCall, sophomore Preston Dial and redshirt freshman Chris Underwood they have plenty to work with.

"Tight end is a strength for us," Walker said. "We're going to be exciting and I'm excited about that. With the unit we've got, we can stay fresh the whole game, and be ready to play another game."

"We have two guys that have played a lot," Saban said. "Our regular offense is playing with Travis McCall and Nick Walker. We're pleased with Travis, and Nick has had a real good summer and has done a good job in camp. [Georgia Tech transfer] Collin Peek is a fantastic player, but he's not eligible right now. I'd say all the other guys have to continue to improve and play with more consistency. But we're pleased with their ability and attitude."

Usually known as more a receiver than a blocker, Walker likes what he has seen so far from the McElwain offense. "It's kinda-sorta the same offense (as last year), but there's a lot that is new for the tight end," he said. "The offense has a lot of plays for us to get open. It's still about blocking on about half the plays and going out in a route on about half the plays.

"We are going to move around a lot this year, which makes it as hard as possible for the other team to cover us. I'm very comfortable splitting out a little. I was a wide receiver in high school. I'm fine with whatever they want us to do."

Walker, who reports he's raised his weight from 235 to 250 on his 6-foot-5 frame, is known by the media as a great interview. The senior had no problem providing a scouting report on a few of his fellow tight ends.

 TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 1-888-979-0979

On McCall, who is known as one of the SEC's best blocking tight ends: "The beast. Anytime anyone asks me about Travis, that's what I say. The beast. He can catch the ball, but more than anything he can destroy the guy in front of him. He's a hard worker. He comes to practice every day and plays every down hard."

On Chris Underwood: "He hits. He's going to be super."

Underwood's recruitment story is an interesting one. Reportedly, Bama coaches were scouring film of defensive end William Green of Birmingham's Spain Park High School, who later decided to sign with Florida. Word is, coaches were interested in knowing more about the tight end for Vestavia Hills who continued to get the best of Green on running plays on the tape they were viewing. A quick call to long-time Rebels Coach Buddy Anderson provided the answer: Underwood. His recruiting process was short and sweet, and within weeks he was first a Tide commitment and then a signee. Underwood redshirted last year to add weight, and he has done that, from 205 as a high school senior up to 224 at summer camp's start.

Though Walker didn't give a review of Dial, he did talk about a pair of new faces in the tight end group who likely won't play this year. Of Peek, who will likely sit out, Walker said, "He's not going to be able to play this year, but you'd never know it from the way he practices. He practices hard, and he's going to be good when he gets a chance to play next year."

Even true freshman Brad Smelley, a likely redshirt who played quarterback his final two seasons at Tuscaloosa's American Christian Academy, has turned heads, including Walker's. "Brad is working hard. He's trying to learn, and he takes coaching well. He doesn't make the same mistake twice."

McCall was glad to provide a Walker evaluation: "Very athletic guy. He's a hard worker. Fun to be around. He makes people laugh."

Of the four tight ends who will garner most of the playing time this year, two play one position and two another in the tweaked offense. Sound confusing? It's not, really. Walker and Underwood play the "Y" position, which is more a true tight end. The "Y" lines up right by the tackle on most formations.

McCall and Dial play the "H," or "H-back" position, which can line up at tight end, in the slot, out wide, at fullback, or go in motion.

"We're always looking for something new to do," said McCall, a man of few words in the media room. "I just take it in stride. Whatever they want me to do, I try to do it. They are kind of similar, the two positions. The 'Y' moves some, too." True, but not as much as the "H."

"(McElwain) uses a lot of two tight ends," McCall added. "We're involved in the offense a great deal." Last year, McCall caught six balls for 45 yards. In his three-year career, the 6-2, 260-pounder has 17 catches for 172 yards and one touchdown.

Walker has 35 catches, 363 yards and three scores for his career.

Following a pre-season scrimmage, Saban said, "Both are on the field a pretty significant part of what we try to do. They are a part of various personnel groupings."

The coach had explained that Alabama's offensive sets could include three tight ends, one in a slot; or two tight ends, one in a slot or both on the line; or regular formation, one tight end. He said a tight end could also be split out.

"That development is ongoing," Saban said, "but one thing that has emerged is guys making plays on the ball on a more consistent basis. If Travis and Nick are able to do that, I think it is going to be significant."

Travis McCall is an outstanding blocker but also can catch

University of Alabama

"I'm trying to improve in any way I can," said McCall, "whether it's receiving, blocking, or anything. I'm just trying to get better."

Said Dial: "We're a lot more active in the passing game. (McElwain) expects us to be able to block. Our emphasis is on blocking and being fundamentally sound, but I think we're a lot more active (in the passing game) and trying to open up the field a little bit. We're trying to help get our wide receivers open a little bit more, now." Dial caught one pass for 21 yards as a redshirt

Preston Dial looks for more playing time

University of Alabama

freshman, but was a prolific receiver in high school at Mobile's UMS- Wright.

Dial says having a pair of fifth-year seniors as tutors has been a big help. "I look at Nick Walker and Travis McCall as my big brothers," he said. "They've been here a couple of years before me, starting. It's always good to have a couple of guys to look up to and help you. Even in game-time situations, if I have a question, I know I've got a vet over there who can answer any question I've got."

Walker's receiving skills and improved blocking, coupled with McCall's blocking acumen and improved receiving, could get both serious looks from NFL teams at season's end. It would not be a shock for one or both to be invited to Mobile's Senior Bowl, an ideal place to showcase talents.

First, however, it's McCall's goal to go out with a stellar senior season in the won-lost column. He thinks year two of Saban's "process" will contribute to that. "We're working on finishing," he said, "and doing things correctly. Everybody's buying in, wanting to get better, and working hard."

With the departure after one year by Ron Middleton to Duke, the tight ends now work under Bobby Williams. That's been an adjustment for the free-spirited Walker. "Having Coach Williams has been good," said Walker "I liked Coach Middleton. He was good at what he did, and he would joke around a little. Coach Williams is serious."

Walker, more a jokester, reminds some of actor Michael Clark Duncan, especially when he speaks. Of the two seniors, Walker is considered the comedian and McCall the serious one, at least by outsiders.

"Don't let 'Trav' fool you," smiled Dial. "He's a joker too. Nick really took to me when I first got here. He's a real friendly guy. He jokes around, and he keeps the atmosphere around here light.

"Travis is more the 'Get to work and get to it now' type guy, but he cuts up, too."

Walker says even after he and McCall use up their eligibility at the end of this season, the future is bright at The Capstone. "There aren't many of us," he said of the small Bama senior class, only nine players. "That means we're going to be even better next year."

After many long years of longing for more use of the tight end, that's just fine with Bama fans. ■

 TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 1-888-979-0979

Predicting 2008 College Football's Best Games

by Paul Bessire
WhatIfSports.com

Visit WhatIfSports.com today and you can play GridIron Dynasty for Free! Use the promo code "**SCOUTCFB8**" for your free season of GridIron Dynasty at WhatIfSports.com.*

At **WhatIfSports.com**, we eagerly anticipate the start of the college football season, just like fans across the country; for us, however, the year has come and gone. Utilizing our award-winning college football simulation software, we have already simulated each game of the 2008 season 1,000 times to find teams' expected records and the average outcomes of every matchup.

The inputs to the simulations are based on a rigorous analysis of each team. It first considers strength-of-schedule-adjusted team and player ratings from 2007, and then makes modifications for 2008 based on returning starters (who, where and how many), expected progression of returning players in new roles, depth at each position and incoming recruits and transfers.

For this preview, we reveal the results of at least one critical game for every week in the season. Each game chosen includes a team from Scout.com's Top 25, and all 25 of those teams are represented here. You can use this analysis as an aid in picking weekly winners for FOXSports.com's College Football Pick'em game.

Along with the average score and winning percentage from the 1,000 simulations, we profile the season results for the teams that play in these selected games. The projected results are represented by the expected record, not the absolute record. An absolute record counts wins as the total number of games in which the team is more than a 50% favorite to win. For instance, West Virginia's expected record is 12-0. There actually are five teams favored to win all of their regular season games, including conference championships: West Virginia, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Georgia and Clemson. The expected record, in contrast, provides the winning percentages from the simulations for all regular season games. This is far more accurate, because it accounts for the probability of upsets during the season. In this method, Ohio State is still expected to go undefeated, with a total of just 0.3 chance of loss – about half of which coming from its game at USC.

To come up with our power rankings, we simulated every possible matchup (i.e., 120 teams each against the other 119) in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) 100 times, and used the winning percentages from those 700,000+ games to deterministically evaluate all teams. Because simulation accounts for all of the possible player interactions on the football field, this results in the *best possible ranking* of how every team compares to every other team.

Pre-season projections for every game of every week, as well as final standings and all of our bowl matchups, can be found in the "Beyond the Boxscore" section of WhatIfSports.com. Check back during the season too, as we update projections and power rankings weekly.

FOX COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICK'EM
Use this analysis to aid in accurately picking weekly winners for FOXSports.com's Pro Football Pick'em game.
Visit msn.FOXSports.com/Fantasy today to play Pro Football Pick'em.

WEEK 1:

Hawaii 13 @ **Florida 32**

Without Colt Brennan and June Jones, this is a very different Hawaii team, and has to face a very tough SEC foe in Week 1. Florida defeats Hawaii 95% of the time, by an average score of 32.1 to 12.6.

For the season, Hawaii goes 7-6, finishing fourth in the WAC and narrowly missing a bowl appearance. The Warriors rank 75th in our power rankings.

Florida's final record is 10-2, finishing second in the SEC East. The Gators face Purdue in the Capital One Bowl, and ranks #8 in our power rankings

Missouri 38 @ Illinois 29

No one really knew it at the time, but this early rivalry game proved to have serious national implications last season. In 2008, Missouri prevails over Illinois in 64% of the games, averaging a winning score of 37.9 to 29.0.

Missouri wins the Big 12 North, but loses to Oklahoma in the conference championship game. The Tigers are listed at #9 in our power rankings, with a record of 10-3, and face LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

Illinois finishes third in the Big Ten, and is 12th in our power rankings. The Fighting Illini make an appearance in the Outback Bowl against Auburn and close the season with a 9-3 record.

Clemson 30 @ Alabama 19

Clemson is victorious in 66% of games against Alabama, by an average score of 30.4 to 19.0.

The Tigers are the favorite in the ACC, winning the Atlantic Division and conference championship game over Virginia Tech. They are #7 in our power rankings, have a final record of 12-1 and play in the Orange Bowl against West Virginia.

Alabama is ranked 13th in our power rankings and second in the SEC West. They finish with an 8-4 record, and face Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

Tennessee 31 @ UCLA 26

Tennessee beats UCLA in 77% of games, by an average score of 30.6 to 25.5.

The Volunteers are third in the SEC East and 23rd in our power rankings. Tennessee plays in the Music City Bowl against Maryland, and finishes with a 7-5 record.

UCLA places sixth in the Pac-10 and 33rd in our power rankings. The Bruins face Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl, and end the season with a record of 6-6.

WEEK 2:

BYU 36 @ Washington 28

The Cougars defeat Washington in 79% of the games, by an average score of 35.7 to 28.0.

BYU closes the season with a 10-2 record and plays in the Las Vegas Bowl against Oregon. They rank 20th in our power rankings and win the Mountain West.

The Huskies place 68th in our power rankings and eighth in the PAC-10 conference. Washington ends with a 4-8 record and makes no bowl appearance.

Miami (FL) 12 @ **Florida 38**

Florida wins 90% of the time against Miami, by an average score of 37.6 to 11.8.

Miami holds the 72nd spot in our power rankings. The Hurricanes rank third in the ACC Coastal division with a final record of 5-7. Despite its expected record below .500, Miami is favored to win at least half its games. Couple that with the ACC's bowl ties, and we award the team a spot against Pitt in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Oregon State 15 @ **Penn State 27**

Joe Paterno, 81, may n-o-t-k-n-o-w when he will be done at the school, but he definitely knows how to beat formidable opponents in Happy Valley. Penn State is victorious in 77% of the games with Oregon State, by an average score of 26.8 to 15.1.

Oregon State comes in seventh in the Pac-10. They are ranked 71st in our power rankings, finish with a 4-8 record and do not play in a bowl game.

The Nittany Lions end with a 7-5 record, sixth in the Big Ten. Penn State comes in at #39 in our power rankings and plays against Florida State in the Champs Sports Bowl.

WEEK 3:

Kansas 36 @ South Florida 34

These two surprise teams from 2007 are not going to sneak up on anyone this year. The winner of this game – Kansas by the numbers – proves it belongs among the nation's elite. Kansas wins 66% of the games against South Florida, by an average score of only 36.2 to 34.1.

Kansas ranks second in the Big 12 North and 15th in our power rankings. The Jayhawks make an appearance in the Alamo Bowl against Indiana, and have a final record of 8-4.

South Florida closes with an 8-4 record. They hold the #19 slot in our power rankings and are second in the Big East. The Bulls play in the Gator Bowl against North Carolina.

Ohio State 27 @ USC 16

In what many are already tabbing as one of the most anticipated regular-season college football games ever, the Buckeyes go on the road to USC and win convincingly. They have a winning percentage of 87% over the Trojans, with an average score of 27.3 to 15.6.

The Buckeyes are the favorite in the Big Ten. They rank #1 in our power rankings and end with a 12-0 record. Ohio State competes against Georgia in the BCS championship game.

USC is #5 in our power rankings and first in the Pac-10. The Trojans have a final record of 11-1 and play in the Rose Bowl against Wisconsin.

LSU 26 @ Auburn 11

LSU defeats Auburn 93% of the time, by an average score of 26.4 to 10.6.

LSU ends the season with an 11-2 record. The Tigers win the SEC West, yet lose to Georgia in the SEC championship game. They rank #4 in our power rankings, and make an appearance in the Sugar Bowl against Missouri.

Auburn ranks third in the SEC West and 18th in our power rankings. They end with an 8-4 record and play in the Outback Bowl against Illinois.

WEEK 4:

Georgia 37 @ Arizona State 17

The Bulldogs use this game to answer OSU's resounding message from the previous week and throttle another pretty good Pac-10 opponent. Georgia has a 95% winning percentage over Arizona State, with an average winning score of 36.7 to 17.0.

The Bulldogs finish first in the SEC East and win the SEC Championship with a 12-1 record. They are #2 in our power rankings and play against OSU in the BCS championship game.

Arizona State ends the season with an 8-4 record and finish second in the Pac-10. The Sun Devils are 22nd in our power rankings and face Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl.

WEEK 5:

Illinois 30 @ Penn State 21

Illinois defeats Penn State in 77% of the games, by an average score of 30.3 to 20.7.

Wisconsin 29 @ Michigan 20

Wisconsin wins 80% of the games against Michigan in Ann Arbor, by an average score of 29.3 to 19.5.

PHOTOS (l to r): Doug Benc/Getty, Ronald Martinez/Getty, Jonathan Daniel/Getty

The Badgers finish second in the Big Ten with a final record of 9-3. They hold the #10 slot in our power rankings and play in the Rose Bowl against USC.

Michigan ends with a 6-6 record and places seventh in the Big Ten. The Wolverines play in the Insight Bowl against Oklahoma State, and are 24th in our power rankings.

WEEK 6:

Oregon 8 @ **USC 36**

USC defeats Oregon 95% of the time, by an average score of 36.3 to 7.6.

Oregon finishes fourth in the Pac-10 with a record of 7-5. The Ducks face BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, and are 29th in our power rankings.

WEEK 7:

LSU 32 @ Florida 25

LSU has a 67% winning percentage over Florida, with an average winning score of 31.8 to 25.1.

Texas 31 @ **Oklahoma 37**

In the Red River Shootout, the Sooners defeat Texas 80% in of the games, by an average score of 36.5 to 31.2.

The Longhorns end the season with a 9-3 record, placing second in the Big 12 South. They rank 11th in our power rankings and play Alabama back at the Cotton Bowl.

Oklahoma is the favorite in the Big 12, winning the South and defeating Missouri in the conference championship game. They have a final record of 12-1 and are #3 in our power rankings. The Sooners face Wake Forest in the Fiesta Bowl.

WEEK 8:

Missouri 40 @ Texas 37

Missouri wins 52% of the games against Texas. The average score of this high-scoring game is 39.8 to 37.4.

Wake Forest 26 @ Maryland 23

The Demon Deacons have a winning percentage of 64% over Maryland, and the average score is 26.4 to 22.7.

Wake Forest ranks second in the ACC Atlantic and 14th in our power rankings. They finish with a 10-2 record and play against Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

Maryland finishes with an 8-4 record. They place fourth in the ACC Atlantic and make an appearance in the Music City Bowl against Tennessee. The Terrapins hold the 30th slot in our power rankings.

WEEK 9:

Auburn 14 @ **West Virginia 31**

In a late non-conference battle, West Virginia defeats Auburn 82% of the time, by an average score of 30.6 to 14.4.

WVU comes in first in the Big East with an 11-1 record. The Mountaineers play in the Orange Bowl against Clemson, and are #6 in our power rankings.

Texas Tech 32 @ Kansas 32

It's not really a tie, but it is as close as it gets. Kansas defeats Texas Tech in 59% of the games, but the average score is 32.2 to 32.3, slightly in favor of Texas Tech. With its high-powered offense, when Texas Tech wins, they win by considerably more than when Kansas wins.

The Red Raiders rank 16th in our power rankings and third in the Big 12 South. They finish with a 9-3 record and play in the Holiday Bowl against Arizona State.

WEEK 10:

Florida 20 @ **Georgia 39**

Assuming both teams make it to Jacksonville alive, the Bulldogs defeat the Gators 79% of the time. The average score is 38.5 to 20.3.

Texas 34 @ Texas Tech 31

The gap between these two programs is definitely closing, but Texas is still on top – for now. Texas is victorious in 64% of the games by an average score of 33.6 to 30.9.

Clemson 30 @ Boston College 12

2008 may be finally be Clemson's year. For BC, it's time to completely overhaul the team. Clemson has a winning percentage of 95% over the Eagles with an average score of 30.0 to 11.6.

Boston College finishes fifth in the ACC Atlantic with a 5-7 record. They are 60th in our power rankings and make no bowl appearance.

WEEK 11:

California 14 @ **USC 33**

USC wins 95% of the time against California. The average score is 32.7 to 13.5.

California is 42nd in our power rankings and third in the Pac-10 with a record of 7-5. The Golden Bears play in the Sun Bowl against Notre Dame.

PHOTOS (l to r): Ronald Martinez/Getty, Doug Pensinger/Getty, Jonathan Daniel/Getty

Arkansas 22 @ **South Carolina 27**

South Carolina wins 54% of the games with Arkansas, by an average score of 27.0 to 21.9.

Arkansas ends with a 5-7 record, placing fifth in the SEC West. The Razorbacks are 49th in our power rankings and do not play in a bowl game.

The Gamecocks finish 6-6. They rank fifth in the SEC East and 43rd in our power rankings. South Carolina competes against Virginia Tech in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl.

WEEK 12:

Virginia Tech 24 @ Miami 12

Virginia Tech is victorious over Miami 92% of the time, by an average score of 24.1 to 11.8.

The Hokies win the ACC Coastal division, but lose to Clemson in the conference championship game, ending with a final record of 10-3. They rank 17th in our power rankings and play against South Carolina in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl.

Ohio State 36 @ Illinois 12

Seeking revenge for last year's surprise victory by the Illini in Columbus, OSU goes to Illinois and wins 95% of the time, by an average score of 36.3 to 12.4.

Texas 38 @ Kansas 34

Texas beats Kansas 66% of the time, by an average score of 37.5 to 34.0.

WEEK 13:

Michigan 8 @ **Ohio State 35**

This is not a good way for Rich Rodriguez to begin his career with the Wolverines. Ohio State defeats Michigan in 95% of the games, by an average score of 35.4 to 7.7.

Texas Tech 27 @ **Oklahoma 35**

The Sooners have a winning percentage of 85% over Texas Tech. The average score is 35.2 to 26.8.

** Promo codes are valid for first season purchases of new WhatIfSports.com users only. Offer expires 12/31/2008.*

WEEK 14:

Colorado 27 @ Nebraska 25

Colorado wins 52% of the games against Nebraska, by an average score of 27.0 to 25.3.

The Buffaloes finish with a 5-7 record and place fifth in the Big 12 North. Colorado is 59th in our power rankings and does not make it to a bowl game.

Despite losing this game at home, Nebraska ends with a final record of 6-6. They rank 65th in our power rankings and fourth in the Big 12 North, and face Cincinnati in the Texas Bowl.

Kansas 35 @ Missouri 34

According to these numbers, this game may be an even better classic than it was in 2007. Missouri actually wins 57% of the games against Kansas. Kansas, however, wins by a greater amount. The average score is 34.2 to 34.8 in favor of the Jayhawks.

Notre Dame 8 @ **USC 38**

USC defeats the Fighting Irish 95% of the time, by an average score of 37.8 to 7.9.

Notre Dame ranks 47th in our power rankings. Its final record is 7-5, and the Fighting Irish face California in the Sun Bowl.

Auburn 14 @ **Alabama 23**

In the Iron Bowl, Nick Saban and Alabama prove that the program is back by defeating Auburn 59% of the time, by an average score of 22.8 to 14.4.

WEEK 15:

Arizona State 32 @ Arizona 28

Arizona State wins 67% of the games against Arizona, by an average score of 31.5 to 28.3.

The Wildcats end the season with a 7-5 record, placing fifth in the Pac-10. They compete in the Emerald Bowl against Louisiana-Monroe, and rank 52nd in our power rankings.

USC 34 @ UCLA 11

BCS Championship hopes could still be alive entering this game. The Trojans don't slip up this year. USC defeats UCLA in 95% of the games, by an average score of 34.1 to 10.7. ■

GRIDIRON DYNASTY
RUN YOUR FAVORITE COLLEGE TEAM
It is all under your control
Recruit, practice, schedule and gameplan
Work your way up from D-III to D-I
Can you build the greatest program ever?
* Play for free with Code: SCOUTCFB8
www.whatifsports.com
WhatIf? SPORTS.COM
*$10.95 VALUE. PROMO CODES VALID FOR FIRST SEASON PURCHASES BY NEW WHATIFSPORTS.COM USERS. EXPIRES 12/31/2008.

FOX FANTASY

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICK'EM

WIN A TRIP TO THE BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

BCS ON FOX

Pick College Football winners weekly for your chance to win a three month Scout.com membership to the site of your choice. Every weekly winner, including ties, will be entered to win a trip to the BCS Championship Game in Miami.

PLAY COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICK'EM!

msn.foxsports.com/fantasy

RAZORGATOR

RazorGator.com, provider of the BCS grand prize, is your connection for Hard-To-Get tickets. Plus every College Pick'em player will receive free shipping on their RazorGator ticket purchases.

FOX SPORTS FOXSPORTS.COM on msn

© 2008. The FOX, FOX SPORTS, and FOXSPORTS.COM names and logos are either registered trademarks or trademarks of TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX and its related entities in the United States and/or other countries.

FOOTBALL BY KIRK McNAIR

Making His Name

Leigh Tiffin son of one of Bama's best

It's not unusual to have a "legacy" football player at Alabama. John, David and Charles Hannah came after their father, Herb. Wes Neighbors followed his father, Billy, and now Wes's son, Wesley, is a freshman Tider.

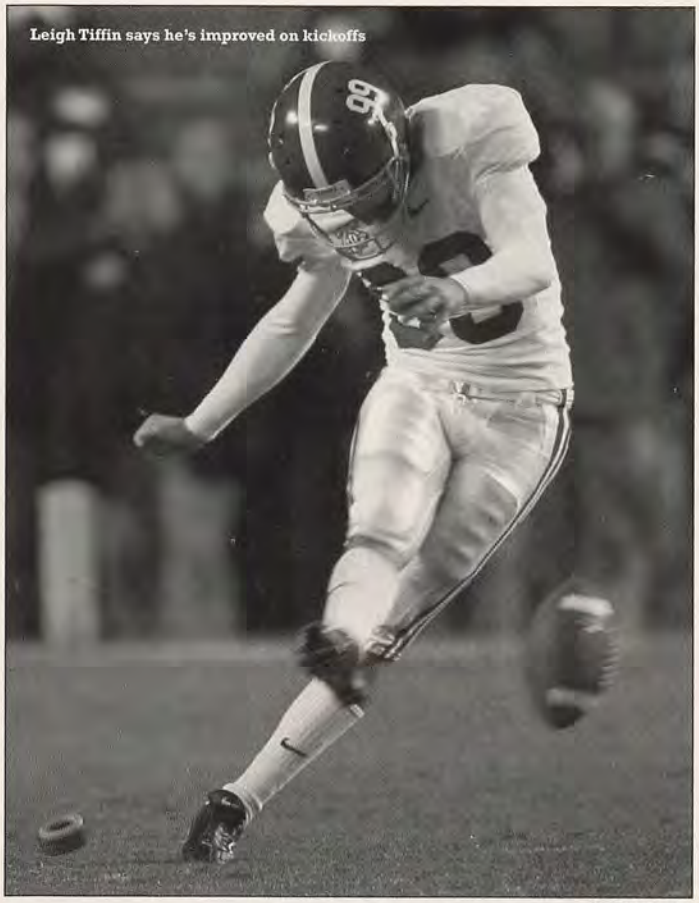
In 1985, Alabama's All-Southeastern Conference performers included center Wes Neighbors and placekicker Van Tiffin.

This year's Crimson Tide returns Van's son, Leigh.

Van Tiffin will always have a special place in the hearts of Crimson Tide football fans. His 52-yard field goal on the final play of the 1985 Auburn game gave Bama a 25-23 win in one of the most exciting games in Alabama history. It remains to be seen if Leigh will be the subject of a Daniel Moore painting or be carried from the field on the shoulders of his teammates, as was his father.

But make no mistake. Leigh Tiffin is a quality placekicker, a man making his own name.

Just before starting the 2008 season, Tiffin admitted to being ready to get going. He liked the idea of the perfect conditions of the Georgia Dome, of course, but more than that wanted to resume play after a sophomore year in which he was very, very good to the end. He was good enough to be put on scholarship after two years as a walk-on.



Leigh Tiffin says he's improved on kickoffs

University of Alabama

Last year he had a bit of a slow start, but by the end of the season was one of the most dependable placekickers in the SEC. League coaches remembered that when they voted on a pre-season All-SEC team and had Tiffin as the number three placekicker.

"That really doesn't mean anything," Tiffin said. "I've been on both sides (of accolades) as a kicker."

Tiffin had a horrible outing two years ago in Fayetteville, a game Alabama lost in overtime. But he put that game behind him and has been very reliable ever since.

As a sophomore, Tiffin connected on 25 of 34 field goal attempts and was a perfect 36-36 on extra point kicks. His 1.92 field goals per game average placed him second in the SEC and seventh in the nation. His 10 field goals of 40 yards or more was best in the conference and his 25 field goals and 111 points were both single season Crimson Tide records.

It's almost enough to make you forget he's the son of Alabama placekicking legend Van Tiffin. Almost.

"I didn't make them all last season, but I ended up pretty well," Tiffin said.

One problem with Alabama's offense last year was that too often the Crimson Tide failed to score a touchdown when reaching the red zone. Thus, Tiffin's many field goal opportunities.

A kicker's work in practice is different than that of players at other positions. Alabama placekickers work with snapper Brian Selman and punter P.J. Fitzgerald, who is also the holder. "I don't have a lot of interaction with Coach Williams," Tiffin said of Special Teams Coach Bobby Williams. That is not unusual.

Placekickers frequently have their own private coaches, something like college golfers working with their own swing teachers. Tiffin has worked under his father for many years.

"Working (in practice) with P.J. is good," Tiffin said. "We've worked together a long time and sometimes he'll notice things I don't see. And he's a great holder, too."

Tiffin said his pre-season practice work this year had been on techniques. "I've been working on fundamentals, trying to be more consistent, working on timing," he said. "I worked all summer and had a really good summer. Now I'm trying to put the finishing touches on."

He said he had made "huge improvement" in his kickoffs and is more consistent on his field goals.

"Once you get to a certain level, you're going to be fairly consistent," Tiffin said. "You don't have those drastic ups and downs like a developing kicker. I'm more confident now, but I still give it my best."

Tiffin has also observed some of his teammates. He said that freshman Corey Smith, who entered Bama last January, "has a lot of potential. Like all of us, he needs to work. But he's got talent."

Tiffin is also aware of Smith's signing class teammates. "I could tell just by looking at them that it was the number one (recruiting) class in the country," he said. ■

Alabama 2008 Football Reporting Roster

Here are those Alabama football players who reported to fall camp. Although another two dozen or so were expected to join the team with the start of classes on August 20, the reporting roster provides almost all of those who will play in the fall. Will Oakley was unable to report because of injury, but will be in playing plans.

No	Name, Pos	Cl	Ht	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	B.J. Scott, WR	Fr	6-0	195	HS	Prichard
2	Star Jackson, QB	Fr	6-3	195	HS	Lake Worth, Fla.
3	Kareem Jackson, CB	So	5-11	185	1L	Macon, Ga.
4	Marquis Maze, WR	Fr	5-9	167	RS	Tarrant
4	Mark Barron, DB	Fr	6-2	215	HS	Mobile
5	Roy Upchurch, TB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Tallahassee, Fla.
5	Jerrell Harris, LB	Fr	6-3	215	HS	Gadsden
6	Demetrius Goode, CB-TB	Fr	5-10	197	RS	LaGrange, Ga.
6	Patrick Bryant, QB	Fr	6-3	208	RS	Trussville
*7	Will Oakley, WR	Sr	6-1	196	2L	Ponte Vedra Bch, Fla.
8	Chris Rogers, DB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Lakeland, Fla.
8	Julio Jones, WR	Fr	6-4	210	HS	Foley
9	Nikita Stover, WR	Sr	6-0	207	2L	Hartselle
10	Morgan Ogilvie, QB	Fr	6-0	185	Fr	Mountain Brook
11	Brandon Gibson, WR	Fr	6-1	192	RS	Mobile
12	Greg McElroy, QB	So	6-3	218	Sq	Southlake, Texas
13	Cory Reamer, LB	Jr	6-4	223	1L	Hoover
13	Robert Ezell, WR	Fr	5-9	163	RS	Athens
14	John Parker Wilson, QB	Sr	6-2	213	2L	Hoover
15	Darius Hanks, WR	Fr	6-0	190	RS	Norcross, Ga.
15	Alonzo Lawrence, DB	Fr	6-1	190	HS	Lucedale, Miss.
16	Thomas Darrah, QB	Fr	6-5	190	RS	Newnan, Ga.
17	Brad Smelley, TE	Fr	6-3	218	HS	Tuscaloosa
18	Nick Fanuzzi, QB	So	6-3	201	SQ	San Antonio, Texas
19	Chris Jackson, WR	Fr	6-1	190	HS	McDonough, Ga.
20	Tyrone King, CB	Jr	5-11	204	1L	Birmingham
21	Prince Hall, ILB	Jr	5-11	265	2L	Moreno Valley, Calif.
22	Mark Ingram, TB	Fr	5-10	215	HS	Flint, Mich.
23	Robby Green, DB	Fr	6-0	180	HS	New Orleans
24	Marquis Johnson, CB	Jr	5-11	186	1L	Sarasota, Fla.
25	Rolando McClain, MLB	So	6-4	255	1L	Decatur
26	Ali Sharrief, S	Jr	5-9	197	2L	Stevenson
27	Justin Woodall, S	Jr	6-2	224	2L	Oxford, Miss.
28	Javier Arenas, CB	Jr	5-9	193	2L	Tampa, Fla.
29	Terry Grant, TB	So	5-10	188	1L	Lumberton, Miss.
30	Don'ta Hightower, LB	Fr	6-4	250	HS	Lewisburg, Tenn.
31	Ivan Matchett, TB	Fr	5-10	215	HS	Mobile
32	Eryk Anders, LB	Jr	6-2	225	1L	San Antonio, Texas
33	Hampton Gray, DB	So	6-1	188	Sq	Northport
34	Jeramie Griffin, RB	Fr	6-0	225	RS	Batesville, Miss.
35	Charlie Kirschman, LB	So	6-2	228	1L	St. Augustine, Fla.
36	Chris Jordan, TB	Fr	6-2	220	HS	Brentwood, Tenn.
37	Robert Lester, S	Fr	6-2	210	HS	Foley
38	Glen Coffee, TB	Jr	6-2	197	2L	Ft. Walton Bch., Fla.
39	Kyle Pennington, DB	Fr	5-11	170	RS	Chatom
40	Baron Huber, RB	Jr	6-3	242	2L	Knoxville, Tenn.
41	Courtney Upshaw, LB	Fr	6-2	230	HS	Eufaula
42	Jennings Hester, LB	Fr	6-2	224	RS	Atlanta, Ga.
*43	Sam Burnthall, DB	Jr	6-2	185	2L	Decatur
43	A.J. Walker, WR	Fr	6-1	185	RS	Huntsville
44	Corey Smith, PK-P	Fr	6-0	190	HS	Bunker Hill, W.Va.
45	Ch. Higgenbotham, MLB	So	6-1	211	1L	Birmingham
45	Sam Snider, WR-P	Fr	5-10	163	RS	Norcross, Ga.
46	Wesley Neighbors, DB	Fr	6-1	200	HS	Huntsville
48	Travis Sikes, WR	So	6-2	194	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.
49	Rashad Johnson, S	Sr	6-0	187	3L	Sulligent
50	Brian Selman, SN	Sr	6-0	218	1L	Vestavia Hills
51	Michael DeJohn, LB	Fr	6-0	220	RS	Hoover
52	Alfred McCullough, DE	Fr	6-2	317	RS	Athens
53	Darren Hallman, SN	Fr	6-3	230	HS	Panama City, Fla.
54	Glenn Harbin, LB	Fr	6-6	245	HS	Mob ile
55	Chavis Williams, LB	So	6-4	214	RS	Dora
56	Calvin Lee, LB	FR	6-2	220	HS	Columbia, S.C.
57	Marcel Dareus, DL	Fr	6-3	280	HS	Birmingham
57	Brad Pounds, OL	Sr	6-3	280	Sq	Boaz
58	Nick Gentry, DL	So	6-3	263	RS	Prattville
59	Antoine Caldwell, C-OG	Sr	6-3	292	3L	Montgomery
60	Scott Deaton, OL	Jr	6-6	286	Sq	Birmingham
61	Carson Tinker, SN	Fr	6-1	230	HS	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
62	Terrence Cody, DL	Jr	6-5	380	Tr	Fort Myers, Fla.
63	David Williams, OL	Fr	6-3	270	HS	Tuscaloosa
66	Brian Motley, OL	So	6-2	280	Sq	Autaugaville
67	John Michael Boswell, OL	Fr	6-5	300	HS	Northport
68	Taylor Pharr, OT	So	6-6	281	1L	Irondale
70	Evan Cardwell, C	Jr	6-2	278	2L	Killen
71	Andre Smith, OT	Jr	6-5	340	2L	Birmingham
72	Tyler Love, OL	Fr	6-7	290	HS	Mountain Brook
73	William Vlachos, OL	Fr	6-1	295	RS	Birmingham
74	David Ross, OG	So	6-4	297	1L	Homewood
75	Barrett Jones, OL	Fr	6-5	280	HS	Memphis, Tenn.
76	Marlon Davis, OG	Sr	6-4	290	3L	Columbus, Ga.
77	Adam Fuller, OL	Fr	6-3	280	HS	Glencoe
78	Mike Johnson, OG	Jr	6-6	298	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
79	Drew Davis, OT	Jr	6-8	276	Sq	Evergreen
80	Mike McCoy, WR	Jr	6-3	199	2L	Rankin, Miss.
82	Earl Alexander, WR	So	6-5	210	1L	Phenix City
83	Travis McCall, TE	Sr	6-2	261	3L	Prattville
84	Colin Peek, TE	Jr	6-6	250	Tr	Jacksonville, Fla.
85	Preston Dial, TE	So	6-3	223	1L	Mobile
86	Chris Scott, WR	So	5-11	175	Sq	Birmingham
87	Chris Underwood, TE	Fr	6-4	226	RS	Birmingham
87	Drew Bullard, LB	Fr	603	241	RS	Florence
88	Nick Walker, TE	Sr	6-5	255	3L	Brundidge
89	Michael Williams, DE	Fr	6-6	270	HS	Reform
90	Milton Talbert, DE	So	6-3	252	1L	Hattiesburg, Miss.
91	Alex Watkins, LB	Fr	6-3	218	RS	Brownsville, Tenn.
92	Damien Square, DL	Fr	6-2	290	HS	Houston, Texas
93	Bobby Greenwood, DE	Sr	6-5	257	3L	Prattville
94	Undra Billingsley, DL	Fr	6-3	275	HS	Birmingham
95	Brandon Deaderick, DE	Jr	6-4	286	2L	Elizabethtown, Ky.
96	Luther Davis, DE	So	6-4	275	1L	West Monroe, La.
97	P.J. Fitzgerald, P	Jr	5-11	194	2L	Coral Springs, Fla.
97	Lorenzo Washington, DL	Jr	6-4	283	2L	Logansville, Ga.
98	Brandon Fanney, OLB/DE	Jr	6-4	241	1L	Morristown, Tenn.
98	Heath Thomas, P	Jr	6-3	213	Sq	Montgomery
99	Josh Chapman, DT	So	6-1	300	Sq	Hoover
99	Leigh Tiffin, PK	Jr	6-1	198	2L	Muscle Shoals

Will Oakley unable to report because of injury; Sam Burnthall left team.

2008 Alabama Fall Schedules

Football

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD
Aug. 30	Clemson	Atlanta	UofA leads 11-3
Sept. 6	Tulane	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 26-11-3
Sept. 13	Western Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
Sept. 20	Arkansas	Fayetteville	UofA leads 11-7-0
Sept. 27	Georgia	Athens	UofA leads 35-25-4
Oct. 4	Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 33-2-1
Oct. 18	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 44-9-2
Oct. 25	Tennessee	Knoxville	UofA leads 45-38-7
Nov. 1	Arkansas State	Tuscaloosa (Homecoming)	UofA leads 1-0-0
Nov. 8	LSU	Baton Rouge	UofA leads 43-23-5
Nov. 15	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 72-17-3
Nov. 29	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 38-33-1
Dec. 6	SEC Championship	Atlanta	2 wins, 3 losses

Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug. 29	Western Kentucky	7:00
Aug. 30	Nicholls State	1:30
Aug. 30	Iowa	7:30
Sept. 5-6	@ Miami Invitational (Alabama, Miami, Virginia Commonwealth)	
Sept. 12-13	Hampton Inn Bama Bash	
Sept. 12	Samford	1:30
Sept. 12	South Florida	7:00
Sept. 13	Murray State	1:30
Sept. 19	@ Kentucky	7:00
Sept. 21	@ Tennessee	1:30
Sept. 26	Auburn	7:00
Oct. 3	Florida	7:00
Oct. 5	South Carolina	1:30
Oct. 10	@ Arkansas	7:00
Oct. 12	@ Ole Miss	1:30
Oct. 17	Georgia	7:00
Oct. 19	LSU	1:30
Oct. 24	Tennessee	7:00
Oct. 26	Kentucky	1:30
Oct. 29	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Nov. 2	@ Auburn	1:30
Nov. 7	@ LSU	7:00
Nov. 9	@ Georgia	1:30
Nov. 14	Ole Miss	7:00
Nov. 16	Arkansas	1:30
Nov. 21	@ South Carolina	7:00
Nov. 23	@ Florida	1:30
Nov. 28	Mississippi State	7:00

Soccer

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Aug. 16	Jackson State (Exh)	5:00
Aug. 29	@ Memphis	7:00
Aug. 31	Jacksonville State	
Sept. 5	@ Cal State-Fullerton	7:30
Sept. 7	@ Southern Cal	3:00
Sept. 12	Samford	7:30
Sept. 14	Wright State	2:30
Sept. 19	Tennessee-Chattanooga	7:30
Sept. 21	Mississippi Valley State	2:30
Sept. 26	@ Vanderbilt	6:00
Sept. 28	@ Kentucky	11:00
Oct. 3	Mississippi State	7:00
Oct. 5	Ole Miss	1:00
Oct. 10	@ Arkansas	7:00
Oct. 12	@ LSU	1:00
Oct. 17	South Carolina	7:00
Oct. 19	Florida	1:00
Oct. 23	@ Tennessee	5:00
Oct. 26	Georgia	1:00
Oct. 31	@ Auburn	7:00
Nov. 5-9	SEC Tournament @ Orange Beach	

Men's Cross Country

DATE	EVENT
Sept. 5	Tennessee-Chattanooga Powerade
Sept., 20	CRIMSON CLASSIC
Oct. 4	Dellinger @ Eugene, Ore., OR Auburn Invitational
Oct. 18	Pre-NCAA @ Terre Haute, Ind.
Nov. 3	SEC Championships @ Starkville
Nov. 15	NCAA Regional @ Knoxville
Nov. 24	NCAA Championships @ Terre Haute

Women's Cross Country

DATE	EVENT
Sept. 5	Belmont Opener @ Nashville
Sept., 20	CRIMSON CLASSIC
Sept. 27	Loyola Lakefront @ Chicago
Oct. 11	Chile Pepper @ Fayetteville
Oct. 27	SEC Championships @ Starkville
Nov. 15	NCAA Regional @ Knoxville
Nov. 24	NCAA Championships @ Terre Haute

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 1-888-979-0979

AN IDENTITY IS STOLEN

EVERY THREE SECONDS.

ARE YOU PROTECTED?

I'm Todd Davis, CEO of LifeLock and 457-55-5462 is my real Social Security number.*

I give it out just to prove how safe your identity is with LifeLock.

LifeLock, the industry leader in identity theft protection, takes proactive steps to help reduce the risk of identity thieves destroying your credit and ruining your good name – even if they get your information. And remember, what we don't stop, we'll fix at our expense, up to $1,000,000. I'm so confident in LifeLock's ability to protect my identity I publish my Social Security number. To give you that same level of confidence and peace of mind, I'd like to give you LifeLock for 30 days, absolutely free.

Here's what you're getting with LifeLock:

+ Proactive Identity Theft Protection
+ Reduced Junk Mail and Credit Card Offers
+ Request Free Annual Credit Reports
+ WalletLock™ – Help replacing the contents of a lost wallet**
+ $1 Million Total Service Guarantee

30 DAYS FREE

CALL 800-514-3027

LifeLock®
#1 In Identity Theft Protection

* Never share your social security number unnecessarily. ** WalletLock excludes pictures, cash and other monies. No payment, no obligation for 30 days. After 30 days your credit card will automatically be billed. You can cancel at any time without penalty.

Help Wanted

Men's basketball has grants to give

As the November early signing period for sports other than football approaches, Alabama men's basketball seems to be in need of a late push.

Coach Mark Gottfried's Crimson Tide would seem to have four scholarships available. To date there has been only one commitment, 6-0, 160-pound point guard Cully Payne of Shaumburg, Illinois.

The real news in Alabama basketball recruiting is who Alabama is NOT going to sign. The top two prospects in the state have eliminated Bama from consideration. The state's only five-star player as evaluated by Scout Media is DeMarcus Cousins. Cousins, a shade under 6-10 and 245 pounds, has transferred to a new school this year. After an "incident," he moved from Birmingham to Mobile and will play at LeFlore.

Cousins has already announced his intentions to return to Birmingham. He has committed to Alabama-Birmingham.

It has been rare over the past 40 years or so that Alabama did not sign the top prospects from the state of Alabama. In the late 1960s, C.M. Newton made a commitment to win with Alabama players. He signed the best from the state and built Alabama into a basketball power. Wimp Sanderson followed with top players from within the state. Mark Gottfried has also been an excellent recruiter.

But things don't look good this year. Not only has Cousins committed to UAB, the second best prospect in the state, Christian Watford from Shades Valley, does not appear to be interested in the Tide. Watford, a four-star player, is a 6-7, 215-pound small forward. He has narrowed his choices to Memphis, Louisville, Kentucky and Indiana.

Scout has identified Nik Garcia, a 6-6, 175-pound wing player from Niles West High School in Skokie, Illinois, as Bama's best bet to join fellow Illinois native Payne to Tuscaloosa. Garcia, a three-star performer, has scholarship offers from Northern Illinois, Southern Illinois, Illinois State, Akron, and Kansas State.

Also a possibility is 6-2 wing guard Dexter Fields of Olympia High School in Orlando, Florida. Fields, listed as a two-star, has an unusual list of favorites that includes George Mason, LSU, Murray State, Nebraska, Penn State and Pittsburgh, as well as Alabama.

Probably more of a longshot is a big name in basketball. Shawn Kemp, Jr., son of the former NBA star, has an offer from Alabama, among others. Kemp is a 6-9, 200-pound post player at Canton, Georgia. Last year he shot 70 per cent from the field, in part because he had over 60 dunks in 28 games. He also has an offer from Georgia and has drawn interest from Florida and South Carolina in the Southeastern Conference. Indiana has been involved with him, too.

Things don't look much better for Alabama recruiting in the state for awhile. Josh Langford, who is expected to be the state's top prospect next year, has already committed to Louisville. Langford is a 6-6 forward at J.O. Johnson High School in Huntsville.

There's better news for Coach Wendell Hudson and the Alabama women's basketball team. After Alabama women's basketball recruiting in the state had faltered in recent years, Hudson took over the job in the spring and almost immediately got a commitment from a top Alabama prep player.

Karneshia Garrett is a 6-2post player who has said she will sign with the Crimson Tide. Garrett was second team 5A all-state as a junior at Birmingham's Wenonah High School. She was expected to transfer to Hoover for her senior year. She played for the Alabama Twisters Elite team in AAU ball.

Garrett said that former Alabama player Joni Crenshaw, who is an assistant coach at Alabama, was instrumental in her decision to choose Bama.

Garrett's junior season was limited by injury, but she averaged 11.9 points and 7.6 rebounds in 16 games.

Coach Jim Wells is having some notable success with early commitments.

This summer he picked up two top players who were deciding between Bama and Mississippi State.

Trey Pilkington is a right-handed pitcher from Oxford who has a fastball in the 90 miles per hour range. He's 6-3 and 190 pounds.

Adam Winsdson, a 6-0, 175-pound left-handed pitcher at Clay-Chalkville in Pinson, also announced for Bama in the summer. His fastball is in the 85-87 range. ■

Think Win.

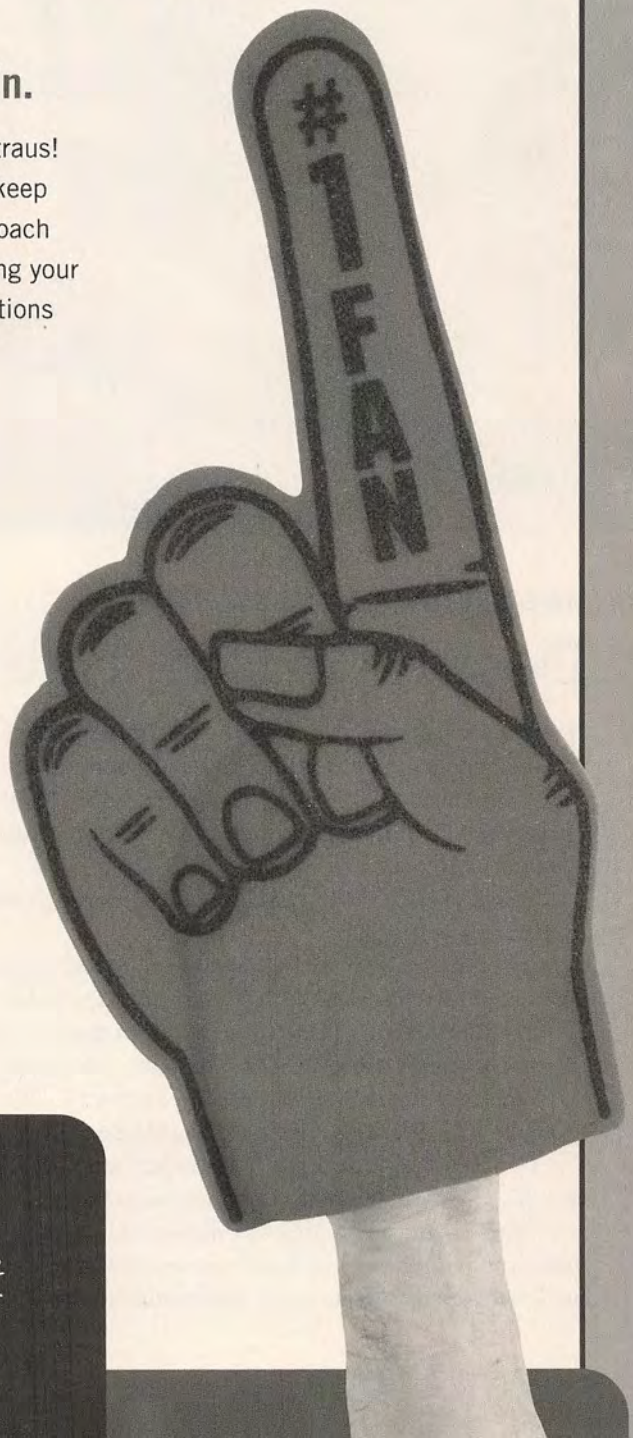
What's Your Company's Game Plan?

Don't Just Play the Game. Play to Win.

Create a winning strategy by teaming up with Suttle-Straus! Our champion combination of in-house resources will keep your business performing at 110%. We focus our approach on your specific business needs so you focus on growing your fan base. Play by play, watch your graphic communications advance your business to the next level.

We Support Your Winning Team With:

- In-House Design Services
- Custom Printing and Finishing
- Digital Print; Variable Data Imaging
- Large Format Signage
- Full-Service Mailing Capabilities
- Distribution and Fulfillment



We train hard to keep your business competitive. Why?

Because we're your #1 fan!

think Suttle-Straus

888.788.8537 • www.suttle-straus.com

Green Not Singing Blues

Amy Pauly leads Alabama defense

University of Alabama

VOLLEYBALL BY KIRK McNAIR

Despite losses, Tide expects to be strong

Volleyball. It's not a game anymore. At least from a nomenclature standpoint. This year college volleyball will play "sets" instead of "games" in their matches. Another rules change is that those sets will go to 25 points, as in international play, not to 30 points.

Those change pale in comparison to more specific issues in Alabama volleyball.

It is understandable for Alabama volleyball fans to bemoan the losses from the 2007 Crimson Tide team.

The 2008 roster will be without four of the most successful players in the program's history. Gone are two Hudsons (Crystal Hudson and Megan Hudson) and two Bridgets (actually a Bridget Fuentez and a Brigitte Slack).

Crimson Tide Coach Judy Green isn't singing the blues. She has to look in the other direction—ahead.

"Part of our growth process right now is getting our youngest team in several years now to understand how to work with the expectations, to work within themselves, to make it just about them right now," Green said. "It's their team at this time, and not the team from a year ago or the team two years from now. It's this team.

"And they all have the desire to continue the team's success, it's just a matter of learning how to handle success and expectation while continuing to raise the bar."

The Alabama administration showed Green recently that it had confidence in her direction of the program when Green was offered a three-year contract extension, effective January 2008, which will take the Alabama coach through the 2010 season. She has coached Bama to nine consecutive winning seasons with four campaigns of 21 or more victories. Her second win of 2008 will be her 600th win in 22 years of coaching.

This year Green will attempt to lead the Crimson Tide back to the NCAA Championship Tournament, where Bama has been the past three years. Considering personnel losses from last season, it will be a challenge to get there.

 TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 1-888-979-0979

Coach Judy Green

Alabama will build around returning starters--Amy Pauly, Lindsey Buteyn and Brooks Webster. Pauly, a 5-4 senior, will be a four-year starter at Libero and holds the Alabama record for digs in a season. Webster, a 6-0 outside hitter, is a fourth-year junior and the top returner in kills. Buteyn, a 6-1 senior, "has been a fairly consistent starter the past three years at middle blocker," Green said. She is the top returning player in blocks.

"Those three are going to be our focal point, particularly early on," Green said. "We're going to have to rely on them until we can get some of our younger players some more playing time."

Despite the losses from last year (Crystal Hudson is playing professionally in France, Slack in Germany and Fuentez in Greece), Green is upbeat.

"We have an abundance of talent on this team," she said. "We have a group of athletes who are very dedicated to improving. Since the end of last season they have gotten in the gym on their own and really worked hard."

While five of the 14 members of the squad are freshmen, there are a handful of experienced players who are key to 2008 success.

"We have a good blend of experience and youth," Green said. "We are one of the youngest teams in the Southeastern Conference. How the coaching staff brings them along and makes them into a team is the key.

"There are not high expectations from others. We are not going to be picked to win the SEC, or even be the best team in the Western Division, or to make it to the NCAA Tournament. If everyone does her job, we have a chance to go from good to great and be the surprise of 2008.

"We know we have to improve our fundamentals and give our very best every time out.

"Coach Saban says you can't be a championship team unless you have champions on your team. We feel we do. Our job is to teach them and have them in the right places to be a championship team."

Green said, "Two players who were role players last year and who are good, solid players, will have their roles expand." They are opposite hitter Liz Salstrand, a 6-3 junior, and middle blocker Calli Johnson, a 6-1 sophomore middle blocker. Salstrand missed the early part of last season with a broken finger and Johnson started in her place.

Although only a sophomore, Johnson—along with Buteyn—is a team captain. They are expected to be the

ALABAMA FOOTBALL TICKETS

Visit us at our NEW location:
1410 University Blvd
On the Strip in Tuscaloosa!

TICKET SOLUTIONS
NEED ONE TICKET
PROVIDING UNFORGETTABLE ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCES
205.758.1199
SPORTS ★ CONCERTS ★ THEATRE

ALABAMA FOOTBALL TICKETS
★ All Games / Home & Away
★ Gameday Party Packages
★ SEC Championship Game
★ All College Bowl Games

LOCAL 205.758.1199
TOLL FREE 877.758.1199

www.TicketSolutions.com

2008 Alabama Volleyball Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Class	Hometown
1	Stephanie Riley	S	5-7	Fr	Louisville, Ky.
2	Lauren Martin	S	5-10	So	Sebastopol, CA
3	Calli Johnson	MB/OH	6-1	So	Dubuque, Iowa
5	Elizabeth Salstrand	OH	6-3	Jr	Rockford, Ill.
6	Mary Catherine Aune	OH/Def.	5-9	So	Austin, Texas
8	Christina Hobbs	MB	6-1	Fr	Houston, Texas
9	Leigh Moyer	OH	6-2	Fr	Atlanta, Ga.
10	Amy Pauly	Def./L	5-4	Sr	Burr Ridge, Ill.
11	Lindsey Buteyn	MB	6-1	Sr	Waupun, Wisc.
12	Lauren Wintzinger	OH/Def.	5-11	Fr	Huntsville
16	Alyssa Meuth	OH	6-0	So	Helotes, Texas
22	Ashley Frazier	OH/MB	6-1.5	Fr	Oregon, Ohio
30	Jennifer Weber	Def./L	5-6	Jr	Wheaton, Ill.
33	Brooks Webster	OH	6-0	Jr	Baltimore, Md.

Head Coach Judy Green,
Assistant Coaches Ben Boldt and Josh Lauer

starting middle blockers. Green calls them "very athletic."

Two freshmen are listed at the position. Leigh Moyer, 6-2, is expected to play in a back-up role, while Christina Hobbs, 6-1, will redshirt her first year.

Soph Lauren Martin, 5-10, has had several "learning experiences" as she prepares for the role of starting setter. Last year she worked behind Slack. In spring practice she had to step up. And in the summer she had the opportunity to work with Slack in off-season work. Martin is the most athletic setter Green has had and the coach said "She is a very exciting player."

Martin needs to be more consistent, Green said. "She has to show the right face to the team and put the ball over the net to be attacked," the coach said.

Incoming freshman Stephanie Riley, 5-7, is recovering from knee surgery and Green said as she gains confidence about the knee she will be able to contribute. "She is very gifted," Green said.

The libero/defensive specialist position is in the capable hands of Pauly, but there is "significant depth and experience at the position," Green said. "We have the flexibility to use them strategically.

"Clearly, Amy anchors our defense. We have been one of the top two or three best defensive teams in the conference. She is hard-nosed and will do everything she can to keep the ball off the floor. She can play any of the four backcourt positions, but needs to become a better passer to be a complete libero player. She has developed a jump float serve. She needed to improve her serve and she did."

Green said 5-6 junior Jennifer Weber "is our most skilled defensive specialist. Her ability to pass is better than her defense, but her defensive skills are improving."

Mary Katherine Aune, a 5-9 soph, was a substitute defensive specialist as a freshman. She has an effective jump serve and has been hitting the ball harder, Green said.

Green said she was "surprised" by the ball control of a freshman, 5-11 Lauren Wintzinger. Green said "She grew up wanting to play volleyball for Alabama and she is a very hard worker and very smart."

Alabama has an experienced group of outside hitters. "We are talented," Green said. "We have size, speed and athleticism. It's a strong corps, anchored by Brooks Webster. She has a disciplined arm swing and can hit every shot with speed. She's mentally tough and a good, all-around player. She is one of the elite players in our conference."

Green said Liz Salstrand was "challenged to get stronger and faster and learn to hit the ball hard, and she responded." Salstrand has a "jump touch" of ten feet, six inches, meaning that's the height she can touch from her jump. (That's six inches above a basketball rim.)

"The coaching staff has high expectations for her," Green said. "If we're going to be better, she has to be better."

Armswing strength is an important trait for an outside hitter. Green said Alyssa Meuth, a 6-0 sophomore, "has a cannon. She's the hardest hitter on the team and she's committed to being in better shape. She has worked hard to become a better passer and defensive player."

Green said a freshman who has a chance to play early is 6-2 Ashley Frazier. The coach said she is strong, physical and a "gifted athlete." She can play either side, which gives Bama the flexibility to play a 5-1 or 6-2 "which can help us a ton," Green said.

In the middle it starts with Buteyn, whom Green calls "one of our hardest-working players and a great role model." A little undersized, she "compensates with speed and athleticism and can hit off either leg."

Also at middle will be Leigh Moyer, a freshman who has a jump touch of over ten feet. She is capable of playing both sides. "She's going to be fun to watch," Green said.

Christina Hobbs will be in the middle after her redshirt season.

Although the Alabama freshman volleyball class isn't ranked like Bama's new football class, it is an achievement that PrepVolleyball.com ranks the Crimson Tide first-year women the 27th best recruiting class in the nation. It was the first time an Alabama recruiting class was ranked in the nation's top 30.

"They all need to improve, but they are passionate about the game," Green said. ■

Make It Quick

New coach wants to win immediately

If Todd Bramble needed any motivation, he could get it each day as he opened the door to his office in Coleman Coliseum. The first-year head coach of Alabama soccer has to look only a doorway or two away to see the offices of coaches competing for national championships in golf, softball and gymnastics.

Bramble doesn't need that external factor. "I don't have much patience for losing," he said.

Bramble took over the Alabama program following the retirement of Don Staley, who had begun Bama's soccer program 14 seasons earlier. The Crimson Tide had fallen on hard times, including six consecutive losses to end the 2007 season.

"Our mindset is to turn it around quick," Bramble said. "We hope this season is our springboard year. We're excited after a summer that was non-stop (recruiting) for the coaching staff."

Bramble came to Alabama at the end of last season after taking Clemson to its seventh consecutive NCAA Tournament. He said his first trip to Tuscaloosa to interview for the job "blew me away. It exceeded my expectations."

He is particularly pleased with the Alabama soccer stadium. "We have found it easy to recruit because of our facilities, because of the college setting, and because this is an outstanding university," Bramble said.

Bramble was able to work with his returning players in a spring practice situation, but the team is one-quarter freshmen and he said "There's a little mystery for us. We go into the season a little unsettled. For that reason, we have to be careful as to goals and expectations."

He said that he knows the quality of the players as athletes and as soccer players, but that there is no way to know how those players will respond to inevitable moments of success or adversity. "You can't evaluate how they will be affected emotionally and mentally in spring practice," he said.

"The goals need to be reasonable as we start moving this program forward."

Alabama will use a 4-4-2 formation, but he said he would be flexible as to personnel.

Bramble said he is pleased with how the seven-woman senior class has "embraced the new coaching staff, the new style, the new tactics. I couldn't be happier with their attitude."

The new coach said that seniors would be relied upon. "They've to strong leadership qualities," he said. He particularly noted that Jessica Deegan, Kailey Corken and Colleen Posey "have logged a lot of minutes and feel they

2008 Alabama Soccer Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Class	Hometown
00	Kara Gudmens	Goalkeeper	5-9	Sr	Cincinnati, Ohio
1	Justine Bernier	Goalkeeper	5-10	So	Oakville, Ontario
2	Ashley Scheidt	Midfielder	5-2	Jr	Cincinnati, Ohio
3	Kelly King	Forward	5-4	So	Lake Norman, N.C.
4	Colleen Posey	Defender	5-7	Sr	Cincinnati, Ohio
5	Kelsey King	Forward	5-8	Jr	Kingwood, Texas
6	Shannon O'Hern	Defender	5-6	Fr	Park Ridge, Ill.
7	Grace Lawson	Forward	5-7	So	Hendersonville, TN
8	Courtney Lazos	Defender	5-9	Fr	Medford, N.J.
9	Jamie Zimmerman	Midfielder/Fwd	5-3	Sr	White Hall, Md.
11	Rosaly Petriello	Midfielder	5-6	So	St. Catharines, Ont.
12	Brooke Rogers	Forward	5-5	So	Cincinnati, Ohio
14	Kailey Corken	Midfielder	5-7	Sr	Cincinnati, Ohio
15	Carly Mygrants	Midfielder	5-8	So	Dayton, Ohio
16	Callie Pike	Midfielder	5-3	Sr	Tuscaloosa
17	Hailey Hull	Defender	5-8	So	Brentwood, Tenn.
18	Alex Butera	Forward	5-7	Jr	Orlando, Fla.
19	Autumn Myers	Fwd/Midfielder	5-6	Fr	Cumming, Ga.
20	Chloe Estephan	Midfielder	5-4	Fr	Mobile
21	Taylor Parks	Midfielder	5-4	Fr	Atlanta, Ga.
22	Victoria Frederick	Midfielder	5-7	So	Huntsville
23	Jessica Deegan	Fwd/Midfielder	5-8	Sr	Centreville, Va.
24	Cara Kelly	Defender	5-3	Sr	Cincinnati, Ohio
25	Veronika Wolfkeil	Midfield/Def	5-8	Fr	Niceville, Fla.
26	Shannon Lathrop	Fwd/Midfielder	5-7	Fr	Birmingham
28	Lauren Ruta	Midfielder	5-7	Fr	West Windsor, N.J.
31	Karen Lansden	Goalkeeper	5-9	Jr	Houston, Texas

Head Coach Todd Bramble
Assistant Coaches Tatum Clowney and Matt Hawkey

Coach Todd Bramble

University of Alabama

This ain't your ordinary football book!

Bear Revelations provides a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the football legend through the eyes of a green college student. This true story follows the "gofer" and the Coach through the turbulent early 70's as Americans agonized over drugs, the war in Vietnam, and the corruption of a President.

The Man wanted to know what the students were saying, and he shared his own opinions through the 1972 season with its "Punt, Bama, Punt!" bout against Auburn, the epic National Championship year of 1973 and its "game of history," the perfect fall of '74 as Alabama fought for another title and struggled with a bowl jinx, and 1975 when the Crimson Tide evolved from first-game losers to Sugar Bowl contenders.

Steve Clark's story of his four years of service to "the world's greatest football coach" gives us an insider's magic carpet ride filled with bags of cash, laughs, and unforgettable memories.

"I loved reading the new stories about Coach Bryant. It's like reliving the early 70's with all its happenings and all those great games. *Bear Revelations* is a treasure!"

Tom Thornell, Montgomery, AL

Available Now in bookstores and online

www.PineHillBooks.com 251-259-5410

have ownership in the program."

A strength of the Crimson Tide will be the goalkeeper corps. "Teams that win—and this is a bigger factor in women's soccer than men's soccer—have good goalkeepers," Bramble said. Bama is led by sophomore Justine Bernier, with juniors Kara Gudmens and Karen Lansden also strong players. "All are experienced and good enough to keep you in the game," Bramble said.

"The strength of the team is in midfield," Bramble said. "We're going to have to have some players step it up in back."

He said he could see as many as three seniors – Deegan, Corken and Jamie Zimmerman – in midfield positions. "We're counting on them to have good senior seasons," the coach said.

Bramble said that "defense will be the starting point. The offense takes more time. It is more sophisticated, with finer points. We always build our team with the understanding that we are going to be a good defensive team. We work hard on that side of the ball. We will recruit players with an attacking personality for offense. We want to build a reputation as a team that is hard to score on. If we get scored on, we want the other team to feel that it was earned, not that we gave it away."

He said Colleen Posey and Alex Butera had been impressive on defense.

As for offense, Bramble said, "We're looking for people to produce." He said a key to offense could be left-footed sophomore Rosaly Petriello, who could be the playmaker. "She's good with the ball, a deft passer who can score from anywhere."

Bramble returns the top five scorers from last year, including the woman he calls "the best athlete on the team," sophomore Victoria Frederick. "She's one of the fastest players in the conference. She'll be in every (opposing) team's scouting report. She's a handful for opposing defenses."

He also has good expectations for sophomore Grace Lawson.

Frederick, who was All-Southeastern Conference Freshman Team last year, tied for the 2007 Bama team lead in points (13) and goals (5). Corken and Butera had 13 points each on five assists and four goals. Soph Carly Mygfrants had 11 points with five goals in her freshman season. Petriello had three goals and three assists.

Three freshmen are considered likely contributors in 2008. Shannon O'Hern, a defender from Chicago, is nationally-known. Two top prospects come from New Jersey, midfielder Lauren Ruta and defender Courtney Lazos.

Bramble came to Alabama from the Atlantic Coast Conference, long considered the nation's strongest for women's soccer. He said the SEC is "third or fourth strongest in the nation and not far off the ACC. Florida and Tennessee are capable of winning the national championship. If we can be competitive in the SEC, we can compete on the national level."

The schedule includes eight teams that made last year's NCAA field, including defending national champion Southern Cal in Los Angeles. ■

Victoria Frederick is top athlete for Tide soccer

University of Alabama

CROSS COUNTRY BY KIRK McNAIR

Reasonable Goals

Men go for national title; women building

There's no standing around when you're involved in track and field. Joe Walker toils as the distance coach for Head Coach Harvey Glance's Alabama men's track and field team. That makes Walker head coach of the Crimson Tide cross country team. And that's something to brag about.

But Walker isn't resting on his laurels, which include him being named NCAA district coach of the year in 2007.

Walker and his harriers are taking aim at an NCAA championship.

Last year the Crimson Tide finished sixth in the nation, the best in Alabama history. And six of the top seven men on that team, including the five men who scored the points in that meet, all return.

Additionally, recruiting has made the team stronger, Walker said.

Walker begins his ninth season and he said, "I believe we have seven (runners) as good as anyone in the country." And, yes, he admits that the national championship is a reasonable goal.

"I want to give a lot of credit to Coach Glance," Walker said. "It is under his direction that we have put together the style of team he wants us to have."

Glance has said, "Cross country is a priority. We have put a lot of scholarships in that area."

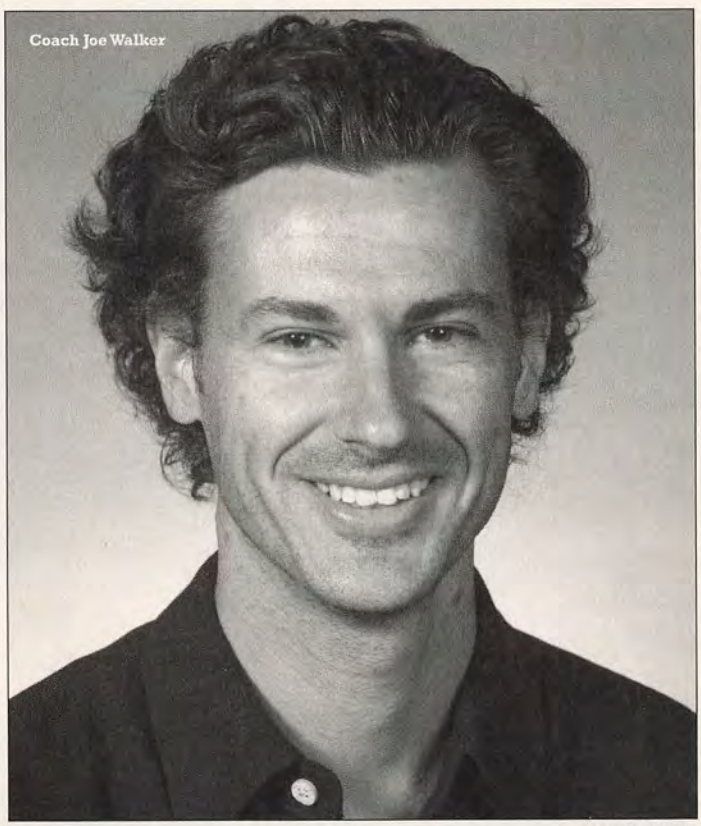
Walker knows what to do with those scholarships. Anyone familiar with world competition in distance running knows where Walker would look first.

To Kenya.

A half dozen of Bama's best hail from the famed distance-running land. And among Alabama's best are some of the best in NCAA competition.

Leader of the group is returning All-America Augusstus Maiyo, a senior. Emmanuel Bor, a junior, was last year's Southeastern Conference champion and was named the SEC's Male Athlete of the Year in cross country. Andrew Kirwa was the top freshman finisher in the SEC Championship meet and was named SEC Freshman of the Year.

A new member of the team is Tyson David, who came to Bama from junior college last spring. He was All-America in both indoor and outdoor track and field in his first semester with the Crimson Tide and going into his first cross country season he is considered among those capable of winning the national championship based on his third place finish in the



Coach Joe Walker

University of Alabama

Coach Randy Hasenbank

University of Alabama

10K in last spring's NCAA outdoor meet.

No wonder that Walker says "We don't have a number one guy. We have three or four guys that are number one. It could change weekly (as to who is number one on the squad), and I like that healthy competition on the squad. All four of those would be considered among the nation's top 15. If we're all on, we can compete for the title."

In last year's NCAA championships, the Tide was led by Maiyo, followed by Bor and Kirwa. In fourth for the Tide was Abraham Kutingala, fifth Titus Koeh. Both will be seniors.

Those six are all from Kenya. All others on the 19-man roster are from the United States, including four from Alabama and five others from Southern states. Walker said a goal is to attract top cross country runners from Alabama and the South.

Alabama's rise to cross country prominence didn't come easily. Bama appeared to be headed to greatness when David Kimani, who had been SEC cross country athlete of the year in 2000 and 2001, died suddenly and unexpectedly. It took awhile for the program to recover from that shock,

Last year Bama expected to win the SEC championship, but Maiyo was injured and unable to participate. Arkansas joined the SEC in 1991 and has won every league title in men's cross country. In fact, the Razorbacks have 34 consecutive conference championships in the sport going back to when Arkansas was in the old Southwest Conference.

Walker had to work to get Bama established as a national top 30 team. Now he thinks the Tide has made it into the top ten. But to move up a notch, there needs to be success at the conference level, too. "We would really like to win the SEC," Walker said.

At last year's NCAA championship meet, Alabama finished 190 points ahead of the Razorbacks, the only other SEC team in the meet. Arkansas was 23rd.

Walker expects Alabama to battle Arkansas and Auburn for dominance in the SEC and for the Tide to be in contention for the national championship with defending champion Oregon, Oklahoma State, Iona, Colorado and Wisconsin.

Alabama Women's Cross Country Coach Randy Hasenbank has to have more modest expectations than does Walker. Metaphorically speaking, the Tide women's program has to walk before it can run. Bama must first establish itself as a top tier team in the SEC before reaching for national recognition. But the goal is "no different than anyone else," Hasenbank said. "We want to compete at a championship level."

Last year Bama was 10th in the 12-team league. And it is, indeed, a building process. Of the 13 women on this year's team, five are freshmen and five are sophomores. One of the two juniors is a newcomer, and senior leadership has to come from Farrah Stewart, the only senior on the team.

"Youth is not an excuse," Hasenbank said. "Some of them are good enough."

Hasenbank, who is distance coach for Head Coach Sandy Fowler's Women's Track and Field team, said recruiting cross country participants means getting "high-caliber athletes who have a passion for what we do. It takes a special athlete. There is no instant gratification. There are not adoring fans cheering every step. You don't ever score the winning basket. You just run to the line."

Hasenbank admits the program has had "a long drought" since being competitive in the mid-1990s and since the team's SEC championship in 1987.

The answer comes in recruiting—getting talented performers.

2008 Alabama Cross Country Rosters

Men

Name	Class	Hometown
Emmanuel Bor	Jr	Eldoret, Kenya
Nathan Corder	Fr	Pickerington, Ohio
Tyson David	Jr	Kitui, Kenya
Austin Duckworth	Fr	Vestavia Hills
Zac Edwards	Fr	Roanoke, Va.
G.J. Hudgens	So	Nashville, Tenn.
Spencer Keel	Fr	Roswell, Ga.
Andrew Kirwa	So	Eldoret, Kenya
Titus Koeh	Sr	Kericho, Kenya
Abraham Kutingala	Sr	Narok, Kenya
Augustus Maiyo	Sr	Kapsabet, Kenya
David May	Fr	Atlanta,Ga.
Terrell Mickens	Fr	Hoover
Michael Niezgoda	So	Homewood
Joe Purpura	Jr	Columbus, Ohio
Alex Seiver	Jr	Rock Island, Ill.
Cameron Sherrill	Jr	Meridian, Miss.
Aaron Stockstell	Fr	Iowa City, Iowa
Chase Volinski	Fr	Huntsville

Coach Joe Walker

Women

Name	Class	Hometown
Rue Chitwood	Jr	Tifton, Ga.
Leigh Gilmore	Fr	Mobile
Sarah Gilmore	Fr	Mobile
Jordan Harper	So	Birmingham
Meghan Hawkins	So	Decatur
Kelsey Johnson	Fr	Iowa Park, Texas
Natasha Klimas	Fr	Burleson, Texas
Haley Moody	So	Morristown, Tenn.
Betty Rotich	Jr	Kenya
Farrah Stewart	Sr	Jay, Fla.
Andrea Torske	Fr	Rowlett, Texas
Sara Vaughn	Fr	Tulsa, Okla.
Megan Williams	So	Oxford

Coach Randy Hasenbank

Tyson David outstanding newcomer for men

University of Alabama

"We want to improve every year in the conference," the coach said. "We want to make a leap forward to the top six in the SEC and build on that."

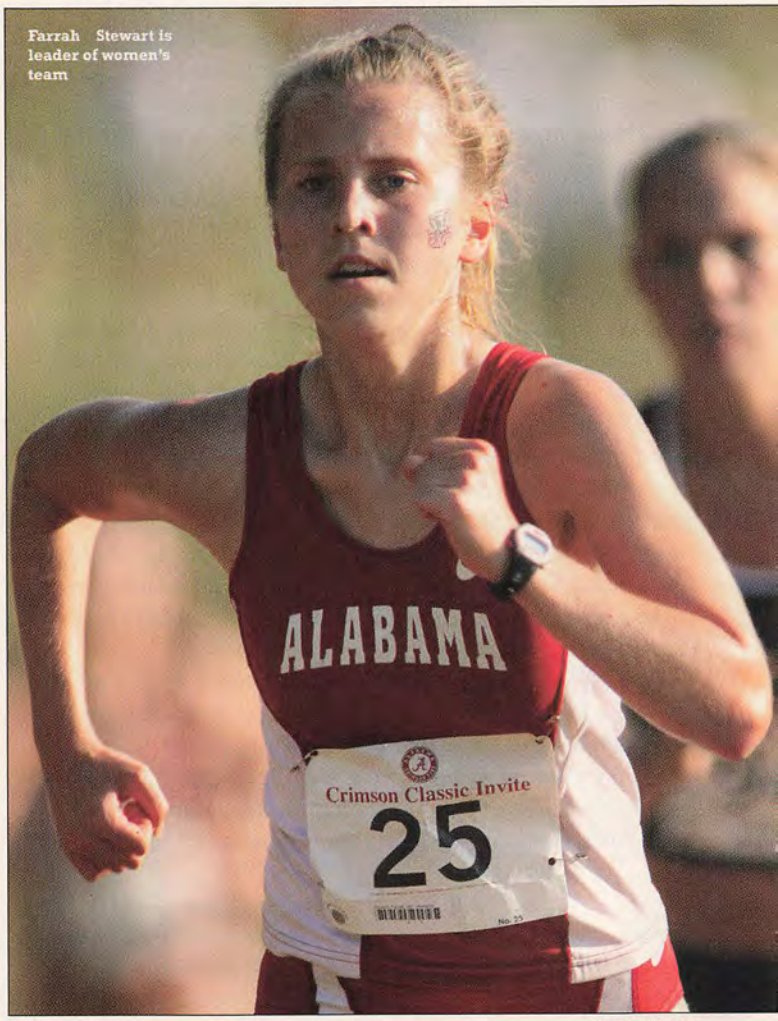
Hasenbank appreciates the leadership qualities of his senior, Farrah Stewart. "She's a tireless worker," he said. "She sets a great example. The passion she has is what we need up and down the roster. She wants to do it."

There are high expectations for the contribution of Haley Moody, a sophomore who was on the SEC All-Freshman Team last year.

A major contributor is expected to be Betty Rotich, a junior college transfer who entered The University last January and was All-SEC in both indoor and outdoor competition. The Kenyan was the first Alabama distance runner to make the NCAA field outdoors in nearly a decade. Hasenbank said he is expecting Moody and Rotich "to be bangers, women who help the team score by getting points up front. The more bangers you have, the better."

Hasenbank also expects true freshmen Sara Vaughn and Kelsey Johnson "to impact the top of the line-up. Both had tremendous high school careers. Sara has good speed for a distance runner."

He also expects new signees Sarah and Leigh Gilmore, twins from Mobile, and Andrea Torske to contribute early. ■



Farrah Stewart is leader of women's team

University of Alabama

Seasonally Adjusted

Alabama spring sports have fall work

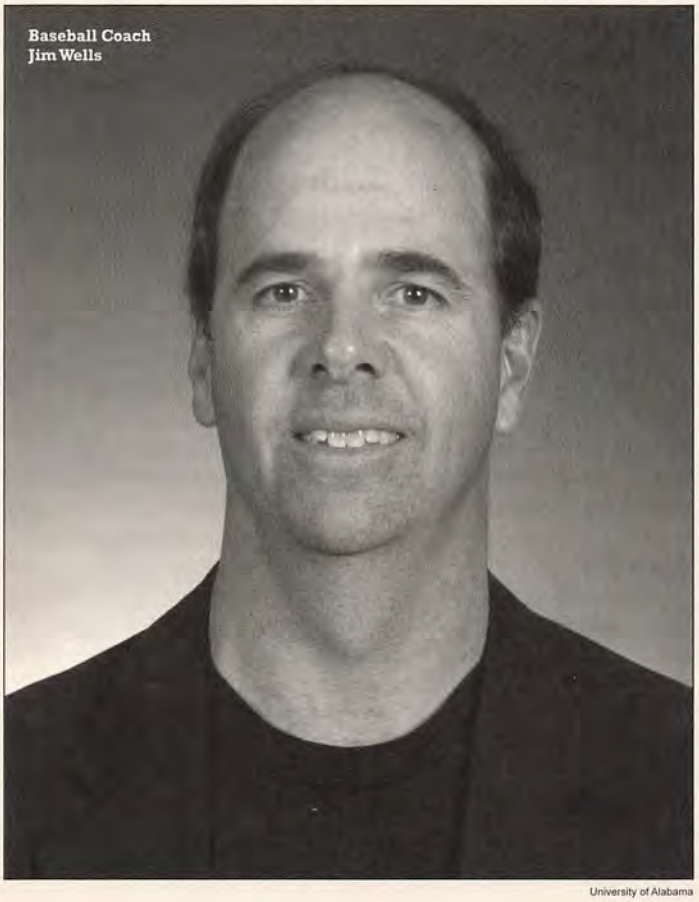
Historically, traditional spring sports have had some work in the fall. Once upon a time baseball would have some exhibition games, but those are no longer. Golf and tennis would have players in individual tournaments. Track and field was dormant, though the distance runners of the track team made up the cross country roster for fall competition.

Now fall competition can have much more importance to spring sports. In golf and tennis, the fall tournaments are part of rankings that will play out later in NCAA invitations. Softball usually has a little game work against junior college competition, which keeps the practices keen for Tide players and also drums up a little interest among the swelling fans of softball.

Baseball was the first sport that seemed to make much of fall work, the fall practices equated to the spring practice of professional baseball. Here's a look at how some Alabama spring sports teams will spend the fall.

BASEBALL

Alabama team will play an exhibition series in Havana, Cuba, in mid-December, which will serve as the highlight of fall practice for the Crimson Tide baseball team.



Baseball Coach Jim Wells

University of Alabama

While most of the details will not be finalized until later this year, the Crimson Tide will play a three-game exhibition series against a group of collegiate level players from the Institute of Superior Physical Education in Havana. The trip was approved by the United States Treasury Department and is permitted by NCAA rules .The three games will not count towards Alabama's 56-game schedule during the 2009 season.

"We are very grateful to all the people who worked so hard to make this trip possible," Alabama Coach Jim Wells said. "This will be the opportunity of a lifetime for the players, coaches and staff who participate. The trip to Havana will be a wonderful educational experience for all of us involved. And, since we will play against some of the very best collegiate players in Havana, this will be a great opportunity for the Crimson Tide program."

The trip to Cuba is not the first time the Alabama baseball team has played exhibition games off American soil. In 1957, the Crimson Tide team played a 20-game exhibition schedule that included a series of games in Japan.

Alabama was to begin its strength and conditioning program about a week after the start of the fall semester. Individual workouts were slated to begin on September 15.The Crimson Tide will open team drills, which will include intrasquad games, on October 15.

SOFTBALL

The Alabama softball team returns to campus after wrapping up one of the most successful runs in program history. The Crimson Tide finished the season with a 58-8 record, achieving the highest winning percentage (.879) in school history and its 2-2 mark at the Women's College World Series is a program best.

Coach Patrick Murphy is fully loaded for an even more successful 2009 campaign as 11 letter winners return to the diamond, including four Easton All-Americans in Brittany Rogers, Kelley Montalvo, Charlotte Morgan and Kelsi Dunne.

Rogers, now a three-time Easton All-American, garnered first-team honors for the second straight year after being selected to the second team as a freshman in 2006. She led the country in stolen bases (60) and runs scored (79) while hitting .452 from her leadoff spot with a .502 on-base percentage. Rogers finished the year with a 19-game hitting streak.

Morgan was also a finalist for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year with a .417 batting average, 19 doubles, 19 home runs and 79 RBI at the plate while boasting an 18-2 record in the circle with a 1.27 ERA. Morgan's 79 RBI set the SEC single-season record.

Montalvo finished .373 with 10 home runs, 15 doubles and 54 RBI while posting a .511 on-base percentage and a .663 slugging mark. She turned in an amazing season at the hot corner with a .983 fielding percentage, making just three errors in 66 games.

Dunne, a freshman last year, has compiled a 26-6 record in her rookie campaign with a 1.44 ERA and 275 strikeouts. Her 275 strikeouts rank as the fifth-highest total in school history while her 26 wins are an Alabama freshman record.

The Crimson Tide will begin its trek back to the WCWS with its two fall tournaments. Alabama will open its preseason slate against Shelton State on October 19 at 11 a.m. and then host South Alabama at 4 p.m. On October 25 the Crimson Tide face off against Chattanooga State and Middle Tennessee State at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively. The next day, October 26, UA will host MTSU and Wallace State with first pitches slated for 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

GOLF

How will the 2008-09 Crimson Tide men's golf team compare to the 2007-08 team that won the Southeastern Conference championship, held the nation's number one ranking for much of the season, and won a school record six team tournaments? The weekend of September 12-14 was expected provide a glimpse. That's when Jay Seawell's Alabama men's golf team was to open its fall season in Dalton, Georgia, at The Farm. The Carpet Capital Collegiate, a major collegiate tournament, has been a springboard for Bama's high national ranking the past two years as the Crimson Tide has won the prestigious tournament. This tournament annually attracts a field of top 25 teams.

Alabama's fall golf schedule includes four tournaments, the Carpet Capital; the September 28-30 PING/Golfweek Preview in Toledo, Ohio (home to the 2009 NCAA Championships); the October 13-14 Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate that Alabama hosts in Birmingham; and the October 26-28 Isleworth/UCF Collegiate in Orlando.

Commencement dealt a major hit as Bama graduated Ping All-America and U.S. Amateur finalist Michael Thompson, who was the 2008 SEC Champion and SEC Golfer of the Year; All-SEC Mark Harrell, 2007 All-SEC Gator Todd; and Joseph Sykora who finished second at the 2008 SEC Championships and won two tournaments, the 2008 Topy Classic and the 2007 Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate.

Returning for the Tide will be 2008 All-SEC golfer Matthew Swan, a senior who made his fourth U.S. Amateur appearance this August; senior Matt Hughes, a 2008 All-District golfer who helped Alabama win the 2008 SEC Championship and was among its NCAA postseason playing five. Incoming talent includes freshman Bud Cauley, who was co-individual champion at the Toyota Junior World Team Championships in Japan this summer and who also qualified for the 2008 U.S. Amateur, the second time he has made that field. Phillip Weaver, a redshirt freshman from Tuscaloosa, was the third Tide player to qualify for the U.S. Amateur.

The women's team of Coach Mic Potter, which will be led by one of the nation's top players this year, senior Kathleen Ekey, will also participate in a fall schedule. And, like the men, the Tide women will play a tournament at the site of the NCAA Championships, the Graves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland. Bama will participate in that NCAA Preview Tournament in early September.

Also in September, the Tide was to play in the College of Charleston (South Carolina) Fall Classic at Yeamans Hall.

Alabama was to go to Legends Golf Club in Franklin, Tennessee, for the Mason Rudolph Women's Invitational September 26-28.

Bama's fourth fall action will be at Auburn in the Derby Invitational at the Auburn University Club Course October 24-26.

The Tide will close out fall play at the Hooter's Collegiate Match Play Championship at the Ginn Reunion Re sort in Celebration, Florida, November 2-4.

TENNIS

For Tide tennis teams, the fall is when individual rankings are bolstered and skills sharpened preparing for the team competitions of the spring. There is also a tendency to split a squad up, sending some players to one tourney and some to another depending on the level competition.

The women of Coach Jenny Mainz will host two tournaments, getting a chance to show off the Tide's state-of-the-art Alabama Tennis Stadium with the Roberta Alison Fall Classic getting underway September 26 and the SEC Fall Coaches Classic getting going off on November 6. The Tide women were to start their fall volley on September 19 at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic.

The Tide men were to start things off at the Penn State Fall Invitational September 12 and will make stops at the USTA Men's Invitational and the All-America tourney among other stops. Coach Billy Pate and company will also host the Crimson Tide Fall Championship starting October 24.

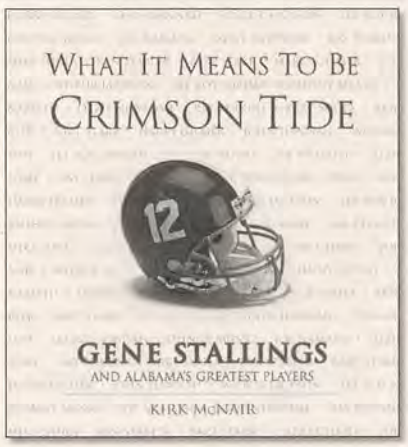
ROWING

The rowing team, staring its third season as an NCAA varsity program, will spend its fall, when not practicing on the Black Warrior River, on the road at regattas that will prepare them for the spring dual meet season.

The Tide is slated for five fall events this season. Last season, Coach Larry Davis' squad had a landmark finish at the prestigious Head of the Charles regatta in the fall when the Tide took the silver medal in the women's Varsity 8+ competition. The Tide will return to the Charles on October 18 after opening the season at the Chattanooga Head Race the week before. ■

What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players



Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide–Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order ($27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.

Prep Prospects

A look at top big men in Alabama

It is normal for the so-called skill position players—backs and wide receivers—to get most of the attention of fans of football and followers of football recruiting. That's particularly true this year because the state of Alabama has an exceptionally large number of skill position players (previewed in the September 'BAMA). Several talented "big men" reside within the borders and this month we take a look at offensive linemen, tight ends, defensive linemen and linebackers for the class of 2009.

We will look at prospects, some who have the attention of Crimson Tide recruiters, by position.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Last year the Crimson Tide found two outstanding offensive linemen in Alabama, inking Tyler Love of Mountain Brook (judged to be a five-star prospect by Scout Media) and three-star John Michael Boswell of Tuscaloosa County.

For this recruiting season, the only top rated in-state offensive lineman who holds a scholarship offer from Alabama is Brandon Moore, and he has been recruited to play defensive tackle.

Brandon Moore, 6-5, 320, is a two-way tackle at Carver High School in Montgomery. He has a four-star ranking from Scout and is rated the state's top offensive lineman. Moore plays both ways for his high school team. On defense, he had 60 tackles and seven sacks as a junior. He prefers to play defense, for which Bama has recruited him. Moore holds scholarship offers from schools across the country including Alabama, Auburn, Miami and Tennessee.

Moore attended the Under Armour Scout.com Southeast Elite camp where he earned all-camp. He is rated by the Tuscaloosa News (which essentially uses Scout rankings) as the Number Eight prospect in the state.

He has named Alabama as his favorite, but a decision is not expected until later in the season.

"I really like the fact they are playing a lot of freshmen," Moore said. "They are giving them a chance. That is really all I am asking for. I liked seeing that."

Josh Williford, 6-7, 345, tackle, Dothan Houston Academy, is a Scout three-star who emerged late on the recruiting scene. He did not become a familiar name until after hitting the summer camp circuit. Williford attended several SEC camps and collected scholarship offers from LSU and Ole Miss. Williford camped in Tuscaloosa, but learned an offer was not forthcoming from the Tide staff. He ended his recruitment shortly after the camp and committed to LSU.

Williford was named Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) Class 2A all-state as a junior. He is rated Number 20.

John Sullen, 6-4, 315, tackle, Auburn, is a Scout two-star who is expected to leave the state. Alabama and Auburn have both shown interest, but an offer is a long shot. He does hold scholarship offers from Duke, Memphis, Tulane and UAB. Duke appears to have the edge for his signature.

Sullen has been to The Capstone and had this to say about Alabama Head Coach Nick Saban, "I feel like Nick Saban is one of the best coaches in the world. He is a great motivator."

Sullen was named AWSA Class 6A all-state honorable mention and all-camp at the Under Armour/Scout.com Southeast Elite camp. He is rated 37.

L.J. Abrams, 6-6, 305, offensive tackle, Madison Bob Jones, is a Scout two-star who has offers from South Alabama and UAB. He is receiving interest from Mississippi State, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. He is ranked 45.

Jeremy Simmons, 6-3.5, 333, guard, Ashland Clay County, has grown into an offensive lineman. He is a Scout two-star and ranked 47th in the state. He was considered a defensive line prospect prior to his sophomore season when he arrived at the Scout combine at 6-3, 280. He was a dominant defensive lineman in the competition. Now 50 pounds heavier, he is moving to the offensive line for his senior season.

Simmons was a solid performer at the Under Armour/ Scout.com combine in Atlanta. He does not have an offer from Alabama, but he camped in Tuscaloosa in the summer.

"I really liked it a lot," said Simmons of the Tide camp. "Coach Pendry (Alabama Offensive Line Coach Joe Pendry) was my coach, and he was real good."

Simmons lists favorites as Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, LSU, Georgia and Mississippi State.

Things change during the season. Some players get better, others fall off. Some offensive linemen college recruiters will be keeping an eye on this fall are:

Alex Sparrow (Prattville), Austin Butler (Southern Choctaw Academy), Justin Byers (St. Clair County), Sean Kennedy (Theodore), Zach Lee (Stanhope Elmore), Matthew Lindsey (American Christian) and Blake Burgess (Vestavia).

TIGHT ENDS

Alabama Coach Nick Saban has been on record as saying that he puts emphasis on recruiting tight ends because the Alabama offense uses a lot of tight ends. Additionally, tight ends are big guys with a lot of athletic ability and sometimes end up at other positions.

Darrell Smith, 6-3, 225, 4.8 seconds in the 40-yard dash, would be the top player on a lot of high school football teams. At Gadsden City the Scout three-star is making a name for himself despite being in the shadows of two of the state's top prospects, five-stars Dre Kirkpatrick and Kendall Kelly.

Smith is beginning to get offers. Duke, Middle Tennessee, South Alabama and UAB have offered. He could play tight end or defensive end at the next level. Some schools are recruiting him for H-Back. Alabama has expressed interest and will monitor him. He is ranked 21.

Brooks Johnson, 6-3, 235, 4.75, a two-star from Decatur, committed to Memphis over Arkansas State. He caught 17 passes for 193 yards and five touchdowns as a junior.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

We project at least 10 in-state defensive linemen will sign with a Southeastern Conference school with most signing with Alabama or Auburn.

D.J. Fluker, 6-6, 327, tackle from Foley, was Alabama's first commitment of the 2009 class. Fluker, a Scout four-star, announced for Bama prior to last February's national signing day for the 2008 recruiting class.

Some project him as making a move to the offensive line at Alabama.

He holds scholarship offers from schools across the country including all schools in the SEC. Fluker is considered a solid commitment to Alabama, but is not closing the door on official visits to other schools.

"Every time I go up to Alabama I feel at home," said Fluker. "I love the feeling I get when I go up there. There is nothing that can change the feelings I have for Alabama."

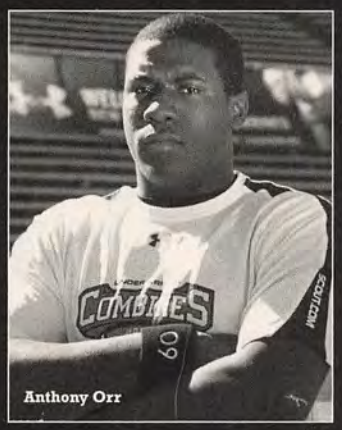
Fluker made 78 tackles and seven sacks in 2007 for Biloxi High School. He transferred to Foley in January. Fluker is rated Number Seven.

William Ming, 6-4, 250, end, was part of a national sports story in the spring. A new NCAA rule, the so-called Saban Rule, prohibits college head coaches from visiting in high schools during the spring evaluation period. Saban hates the rule. Tide Assistant Coach Curt Cignetti visited Athens High School in the spring and learned the school had equipment for distance learning. That allowed Ming to have a video-conference with Saban, Ming at his Athens High lab, Saban at his desk in Tuscaloosa. Advantage Alabama.

In July, the Scout four-star announced for the Crimson Tide over offers from Auburn, Florida, Georgia, LSU, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

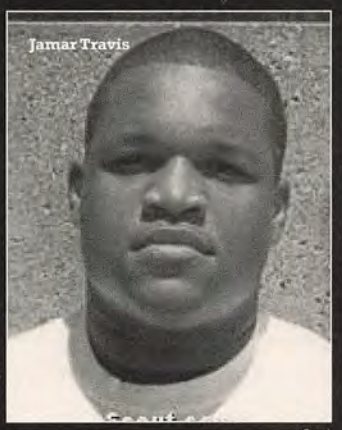
Ming is very athletic and could play on either side of the ball. He had 67 tackles with 17 for a loss along with five sacks and a fumble recovery in 2007. He is rated Sixth.

"Ever since I was a little kid it has always been my dream

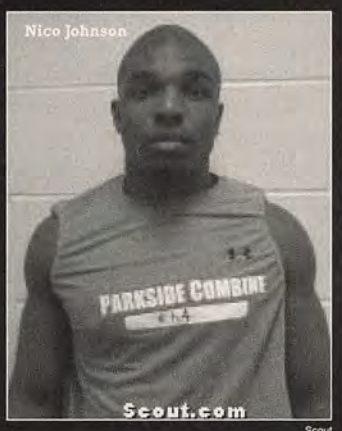


Scout

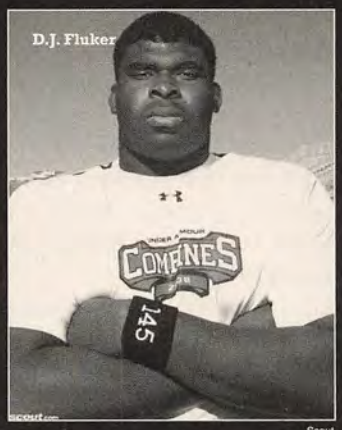
Scout



Scout



Scout



Scout

Scout

Scout

Scout

to play for Alabama," said Ming.

Terrence Coleman, 6-1, 251, tackle, Mobile Williamson, has committed to Auburn. The Scout four-star was recruited by Alabama, but he is the nephew of Auburn defensive end Antonio Coleman and was a clear Auburn lean. He is expected to take an official visit to Alabama. Coleman had a sensational junior season collecting 116 tackles with nine sacks and 26 quarterback hurries.Coleman is also considering visits to Tennessee and Ole Miss. He is rated Ninth.

Anthony Orr, 6-4, 261, tackle, Harvest Sparkman, a Scout three-star, committed to Alabama prior to the season. He had offers from Auburn, Clemson, Tennessee and Central Florida.

Orr escalated on the recruiting scale shortly after attending the Under Armour/Scout.com combine in Mobile in January. He performed extremely well in testing and one-on-one competition.

Orr recorded 60 tackles and seven sacks in 2007, and he does not plan to visit any other schools. He is rated Tenth.

"I can see where the Alabama program is heading, and I believe they are going to win a national championship under Coach Saban," said Orr.

Quinton Dial, 6-5, 310, tackle, Pinson Clay-Chalkville, is another committed to Alabama. The Scout three-star selected the Crimson Tide over Auburn and Florida.

Although recruited as a defensive lineman, his future could be on the offensive line.

Last season he had 61 tackles, seven tackles for loss, four sacks and four forced fumbles. Dial is a solid commitment to Alabama and does not plan to take any other official visits. He was rated Number 11.

"I have always been a big fan of Alabama, so that made the decision a lot easier," said Dial.

Jamar Travis, 6-1, 290, tackle, East Brewton W.S. Neal, is the only elite in-state defensive lineman remaining on the recruiting board. Travis expected to make an early decision, but appears torn between Alabama and Auburn. He grew up an Alabama fan, but has converted into a Tigers fan.Travis was named all-state by the ASWA for his junior season after making 60 tackles and four sacks.He is a Scout three-star and rated Number 12.

"I like the fact Alabama had the Number One recruiting class last year," said Travis. "The 3-4 is definitely my favorite defense. I like that a lot. One thing I would like to do is get to know the coaching staff a lot better."

Jamontay Pilson, 6-2, 258, tackle, Greenville, is a Scout three-star who has committed to Auburn over a scholarship offer from Alabama. He had 97 tackles and 12 sacks in 2007. He is considering other official visits, but the decision for Auburn is solid. Pilson did visit Alabama in the spring, and at one point listed Alabama as his top choice.He is rated 14.

Darrius McMullin, 6-2, 275, tackle, Hoover Spain Park, is a Scout three-star who has committed to Vanderbilt. He helped lead his 2007 team, which included current Florida freshman William Green, to the 6A state finals. McMullin had 60 tackles,

two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries last year.

The Number 22 ranked player picked the Commodores over Kentucky, Ole Miss, UAB and Central Florida.

Mike Thomas, 6-4, 240, end, Mobile St. Paul's Episcopal School, a Scout three-star, was one of the defensive standouts for the 2007 5A state champions. He had 110 tackles, 17 tackles for loss, 8.5 sacks, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries in 2007. Ole Miss was the first school to offer a scholarship, and he committed to the Rebels before the summer. Thomas also received interest from Auburn, Clemson and Louisville. He is rated 34th.

Other prep senior defensive linemen who will be watched this fall are: James Sandlin (American Christian), K.C. Orr (Speake), Nick Bertella (John Carroll), Marlin Sims (Central of Phenix City), Justin Anderson (Foley), Amos Draper (Tanner), Randon Carnathan (Leeds), Gabriel Mass (Jackson), and Jerry Fields (Davidson).

LINEBACKERS

The state of Alabama is loaded with several elite prospects at linebacker positions. Best known are Scout National 100 linebackers Nico Johnson and Tana Patrick, but there are at least a half dozen other SEC-caliber players.

Nico Johnson, 6-3, 230, 4.6, Andalusia, is a Scout five-star, rated the nation's second best prospect at middle linebacker. Johnson has collected scholarship offers from coast-to-coast including from Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Florida State, LSU, Tennessee and Southern Cal. Johnson made 80 tackles and blocked one field goal attempt his junior season. He missed four games due to a partial tear in his MCL. He was named ASWA all-state 4A as both a sophomore and junior. He will participate in the U.S. Army All-American game in January and is rated third in the state.

Johnson has visited Alabama several times with the Tide considered the team to beat for his signature.

"I have always been an Alabama fan," said Johnson. "People around here think because I have been an Alabama fan my whole life I will go there no matter what. I am going to weigh my options, but I really like them. They have a good program, and I grew up watching them. I have always liked Alabama because of their defense."

Tana Patrick, 6-3, 220, 4.6, Stevenson North Jackson, is a Scout four-star who is ranked the nation's number two prospect at strongside linebacker. He has scholarship offers from across the country, but the three considered front-runners are Alabama, Auburn and Tennessee. He has visited Alabama and Auburn several times with a decision not expected until after the season. Patrick is first cousin to Alabama safety Ali Sharrief.

Patrick caught 15 passes from his tight end position in 2007, with 399 yards and 10 touchdowns. He had 72 tackles, two quarterback sacks, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries on defense. Patrick was named ASWA all-state 4A as a tight end/receiver his junior season. He is rated fourth.

"The players and coaches at Alabama really stand out to me," said Patrick. "They are dedicated to winning. That is what I am all about."

Patrick suffered a pre-season knee injury.

Harris Gaston, 6-3, 210, 4.6, Bessemer Academy, is a Scout three-star middle linebacker who has announced for Auburn. Harris made 112 tackles, including 11 sacks in 2007. He also had five interceptions and one defensive touchdown. The athletic prospect received an offer from Mississippi State, but he did not receive attention from Alabama. He is rated 16th.

D.T. Shackleford, 6-2, 235, Decatur Austin, is a Scout three-star strongside linebacker. Strongside Linebacker. He emerged on the recruiting scene in the late spring. He had scholarship offers from Auburn, Tennessee, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Stanford and Vanderbilt, and in the summer committed to Tennessee. Last year he had 102 tackles, 7.5 sacks and five fumble recoveries. He is rated 17th.

Hans Rice, 6-3, 205, 4.5, Eufaula, is a Scout three-star weakside linebacker. Very athletic, he is a wide receiver on offense, but has been recruited primarily as a linebacker. He has scholarship offers from Ole Miss, North Carolina State, Central Florida and Vanderbilt. He attended junior day at Alabama and has received interest from the Crimson Tide. Rated 19th in the state, Rice had 82 tackles, six tackles for loss, one sack and two forced fumble in 2007.

Also at Eufaula, Javen Harris, 6-1, 220, 5.6, is a Scout two-star middle linebacker. He received a lot of early attention, but UCF was the only school to offer and he committed to the Knights in the summer. He had 95 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions in 2007.He is rated 32nd.

Chuck Franks emerged on the recruiting radar after his performance at the Under Armour/Scout.com combine in Atlanta. He is a 6-4, 215, 4.8 strongside linebacker at Fayette County. Stanford was the first school to extend a scholarship offer. He is receiving interest from Alabama, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt. Franks recorded 85 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions as a junior. He is rated Number 33.

Franks attended Alabama's camp in July and left with the Tide as a favorite.

"Coach Saban told me it would be a great thing to have a player from right up the road come to Alabama to play," said Franks. "He said Alabama is a great place for me. He just wants to get some more film before making a decision."

Jonathan Evans, 5-11, 202, 4.6, Prichard Blount, is a three-star weakside linebacker who has committed to Auburn, where his brother, Chris Evans is a starting linebacker.He is considering an official visit to Alabama. New Blount Coach Kelvin Sigler is a former Alabama player. Evans recorded 104 tackles as a junior with 10 forced fumbles, five sacks and two interceptions. He is rated 43.

Other linebackers who may emerge as prospects include: Jewon Williams (Parker), Josh Rowe (Opelika), Brent Tolson (Anniston), Brian Taylor (Demopolis), Walker May (Briarwood Christian), Tony Threatt (Leeds), Durrell Hill (Oxford) and Larry Lumpkin (Alma Bryant). ■

HOT LIST

2009 Alabama Football Prospects

Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine is also Scout Media assistant regional manager for coverage of recruiting. He and others in the Scout Media recruiting staff have made the determination that the following players and Alabama have some interest in one another.

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (High School)
Kenyatta Abernathy, S	6-1	201	4.6	Tuscumbia (Deshler)
Jerrod Askew, LB	6-0	230	4.55	Chesapeake, Va. (Oscar F. Smith)
Jonathan Atchison, SLB	6-3	215	4.6	Atlanta (Douglass)
Chris Bonds, DE	6-4	275	4.8	Columbia, S.C. (Richland NE)
Jheranie Boyd, WR	6-3	185	4.45	Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook)
Alex Buford, S	5-11	175	4.5	Thomasville
Chad Bumphis, WR	5-10	180	4.4	Tupelo, Miss.
Rex Burkhead, S	5-11	196	4.6	Plano, Texas
Montrell Conner, RB	6-1	210	4.5	Monroe, La. (Ouachita Parish)
Desmond Dennis, RB	5-11	185	4.5	Atlanta (Carver)
*Quinton Dial, DT	6-5	310	5.1	Pinson (Clay-Chalkville)
Craig Drummond, DE	6-5	260	N/A	Chicago (Morgan Park)
Jonathan Edwards, CB	5-9	185	4.5	Tuscaloosa (Central)
Johnnie Farms, OG	6-2	280	N/A	Perry, Ga.
Quan Fletcher, LB	6-1	240	4.7	Miami (Dr. Krop)
*D.J. Fluker, DE	6-6	327	4.9	Foley
Stephon Gilmore, S	6-0	180	4.5	Rock Hill, S.C. (South Pointe)
Eric Gordon, CB	5-11	186	4.4	Nashville (Hillsboro)
A.J. Graham, QB	6-3	195	4.6	Tallahassee (Godby)
Alvin Hines, S	6-0	195	4.5	Pelham
Mardrecas Hood, WR	6-3	180	4.5	Reform (Pickens Co.)
Gabriel Hunter, RB	5-11	190	4.5	Memphis (Kingsbury)
Nico Johnson, LB	6-2	230	4.6	Andalusia
Jarvis Jones, LB	6-3	205	4.55	Columbus, Ga. (Carver)
Kendall Kelly, WR	6-4	205	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Greg King, LB	6-3	205	N/A	Memphis (Melrose)
Dre Kirkpatrick, CB	6-3	180	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Drew Little, QB	6-5	240	N/A	McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)
Austin Long, OT	6-5	270	N/A	Memphis (Briarcrest Ch.)
*A.J. McCarron, QB	6-4	180	4.8	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Eric McDaniel, DT	6-1	297	5.0	Calhoun, Ga.

Name, Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (High School)
*Darius McKeller, OT	6-6	295	N/A	Jonesboro, Ga.
*Mike Marrow, FB	6-1	235	4.7	New Albany, Ohio
*William Ming, DE	6-4	230	4.7	Athens
Barkevious Mingo, LB	6-4	200	4.6	West Monroe, La.
Brandon Moore, OT	6-5	310	N/A	Montgomery (Carver)
Clint Moseley, QB	6-4	196	4.7	Leroy
Darren Myles, S	6-2	180	4.5	Atlanta (Carver)
Kevin Norwood, WR	6-3	180	4.5	Biloxi, Miss. (D'Iberville)
*Anthony Orr, DE	6-4	261	4.8	Harvest (Sparkman)
Taikwon Paige, CB	6-0	170	4.4	Milledgeville, Ga. (Ga Military)
Tana Patrick, LB	6-4	220	4.6	Stevenson (North Jackson)
Jamal Patterson, WR	6-2	189	4.56	McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)
Rueben Randle, WR	6-3	195	4.5	Bastrop, La.
*Trent Richardson, RB	5-11	210	4.5	Pensacola (Escambia)
Gene Robinson, S	5-10	180	4.5	Memphis (Whitehaven)
Montez Robinson, DE	6-4	230	4.43	Avon, Ind.
Darrington Sentimore, DT	6-2	266	4.8	Destrehan, La.
Terry Shankle, CB	6-0	180	4.5	Norwood, N.C. (So. Stanley)
Tim Simon, RB	6-2	200	4.5	Cordova
Charles Skiddoway, OT	6-6	305	5.3	Eugene, Ore. (South Eugene)
Branden Smith, CB	6-0	180	4.4	Atlanta (Washington)
*Anthony Steen, OG	6-4	295	N/A	Clarksdale, Miss. (Lee Acad.)
Frankie Telfort, LB	5-11	197	4.55	Miami (Gulliver Prep)
*Chance Warmack, OG	6-4	230	N/A	Atlanta (Westlake)
Quinten Washington, OG	6-4	322	N/A	St. Stephen, S.C. (Timberland)
*Gerald West, CB	5-10	170	4.45	Mobile (Davidson)
De'Antwan Williams, RB	5-7	207	4.5	Woodbridge, Va.
*Kellen Williams, OT	6-5	288	N/A	Snellville, Ga. (Brookwood)
Ronnie Wingo, RB	6-1	215	4.6	St. Louis, Mo. (University)
*Rod Woodson, S	5-11	200	4.5	Olive Branch, Miss.

* Committed to Alabama

HISTORY BY A.P. STEADHAM

Where Are They Now?

Shelby ran into hearts of fans

W. E. Shelby is the distinguished name recited by the velvet voice on his audio mail greeting. His every possession had the hearts of the Alabama faithful brimming with anticipation as he excelled with the three Rs—running, receiving and returning the football.

Whether he was dashing down the sidelines with a wishbone pitchout for a long game-breaking touchdown, returning a kickoff or punt that punctured the other team's spirit, or turning a short flat pass reception into a surprise score, Willie Earl Shelby was a quintessential triple threat running back for the Crimson Tide of Alabama.

Shelby played exclusively at cornerback his first two years at the all-black John Jefferson High School. Upon transferring to the integrated Purvis High School in the fall of 1970, Head Football Coach Jack Craft, had to over come Shelby's fascination with the round ball. "He had basketball on his mind and he was a great basketball player," Craft said. "He could shoot the eye out of that thing."

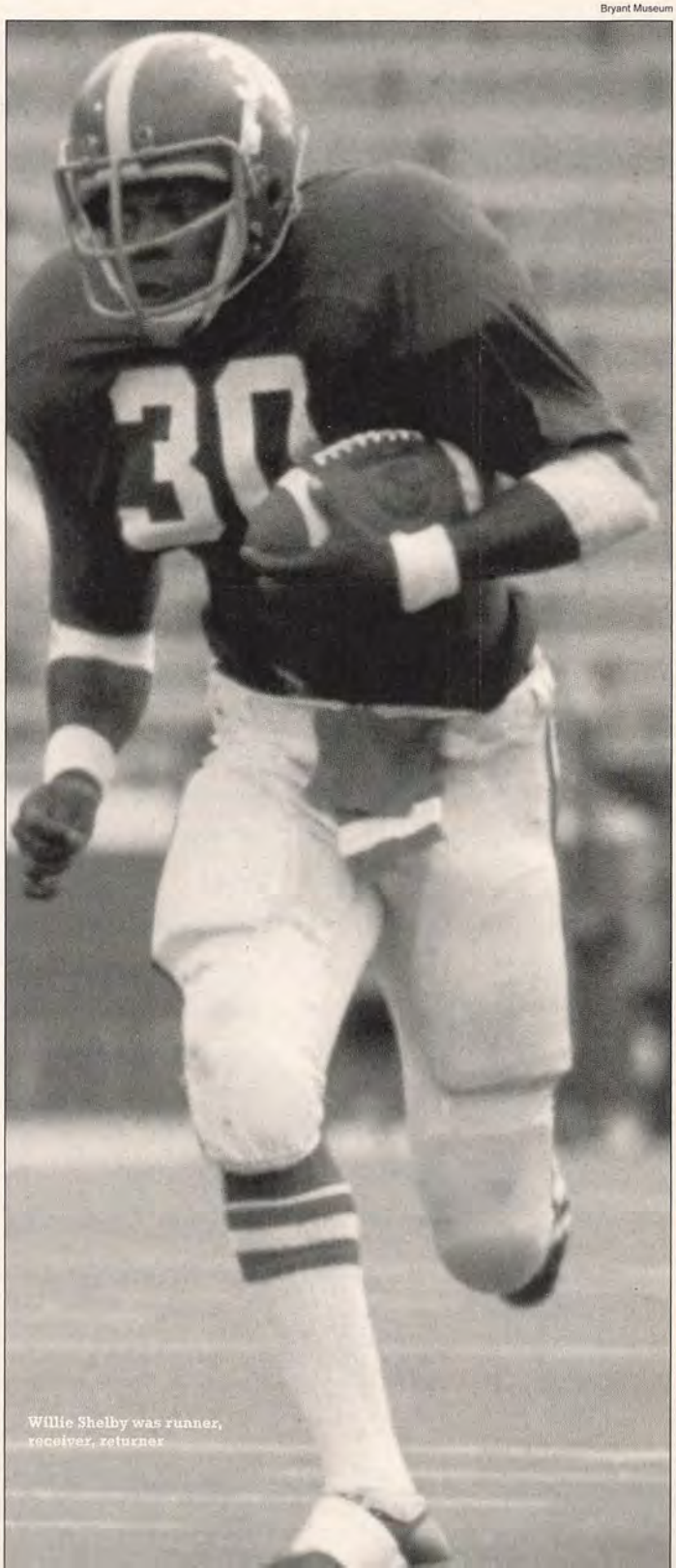
Even though Shelby played four sports in high school including basketball, baseball and track, a gridiron position switch changed his athletics concentration. "I saw the moves and the speed he had at Jefferson," Craft said. "I knew if I ever got him, he'd be the best running back I'd ever coach.

"I finally got him on the football field and he was running second unit about the second week of fall training. I put him in as a halfback and ran a power sweep. He made the defense look silly. He just turned the corner and just shook everybody and they fell down. He went about 80 yards for a touchdown. From then on, he stayed on the first unit. After that he was pretty easy to persuade to stay out for football."

Shelby's skills went beyond the athletics arena as he demonstrated maturity and leadership during an era when emotions were flammable as tinder. Craft said, "Willie Shelby is the kind of person who creates a situation that keeps you from having racial tensions. He's the kind of fellow that gets along with everybody. When he saw something happening that was racially motivated, he would always step in to calm the situation and say let's go play football and leave this stuff alone. He was a kid who kept our school racial-problem free."

Alabama and Ole Miss were the strong suitors for Shelby's offensive skills. Defensive Coordinator Ken Donahue was the Alabama recruiter romancing Craft for Shelby's signature. According to the Purvis High School Tornadoes head coach, the Rebels in Oxford came close to securing Shelby's John Hancock on the scholarship papers. "Willie had decided to go to Ole Miss," Craft said. "The sheriff of Lamar

Bryant Museum



Willie Shelby was runner, receiver, returner

Willie Shelby always graded a winner

Bryant Museum

County and I went to his house that night and talked him out of it. He signed with Alabama the next day. We told him would you like to be a good player among several or be just a good player by yourself. If he went to Ole Miss, he'd be one of only a few black players there."

He was part of the third recruiting class including African-Americans to the Alabama football team as the numbers swelled to double digits in the fall of 1972. On his recruiting visit, Sylvester Croom and his Baptist minister father, Reverend Croom, were instrumental figures in luring Shelby to campus as church was of primary importance in his life.

Any high school halfback entering Alabama during the wishbone years had to be indoctrinated with the requisite nuances of the scheme, first among them blocking and handling the pitch from the quarterback. Under the tutelage of Alabama Running Backs Coach Bud Moore, Shelby progressed satisfactorily.

"Willie was very coachable and learned quickly," Moore said. "He was coached to understand in order for him to play, he would have to learn to block too which was true of all the backs at that time," Moore said. "Once he learned, he was an excellent blocker. The concern I had with him early on was his hands but he turned out to be a good receiver and good kick returner also."

Shelby eventually backed up senior all-star halfback Wilbur Jackson. "I knew that Willie was going to come along and be a good replacement but I didn't know whether he was going to be as good as Wilbur," Moore said. "He turned out to be an outstanding football player."

Shelby's sophomore year began with a surprise discussion of his immediate future before the first game against California. "It was a very trying time for me because the week before Coach Bryant called me into the office."

Succumbing to the sinking foam of the legendary red sofa, Shelby sat apprehensively looking up at his leader. Coach Bryant in his usual deep voice uttered those dreadful words to the anxious first year varsity player, "Willie, we're thinking about redshirting you." At that moment Shelby didn't fully grasp the strategic concept of retaining a good player for another year.

"If at all possible, I'd rather not be red-shirted", he firmly replied.

Standing on the sidelines of Birmingham's Legion Field that Saturday evening as time expired at each quarter's end, tears welled in his eyes. Shelby could smell the tar fumes of the redshirt road being paved. Then came substitutions. Willie Shelby entered the game and scored the final two touchdowns on runs of 32 and five yards. It was a 66-0 rout of the Golden Bears.

The next week Alabama ventured into Lexington for the first time since 1947 to oppose Kentucky in their brand new lair, Commonwealth Stadium. Inspired by Bryant's return to the bluegrass state where he resigned as Kentucky's coach after the 1953 season, the Wildcats were less than generous hosts and pounced on the Crimson Tide in the second quarter for a surprising 14-0 halftime lead. Shelby, entrusted with the second half kick-off return duties, galloped one hundred yards as the thoroughbred racing crowd witnessed the sprinting stride of the swift halfback.

His first varsity kick-off return resulted in a thrilling touchdown which de-clawed Kentucky and propelled Alabama to a 28-14 come from behind victory. "I always did run kick-offs and punts back since high school," he stated nonchalantly. "The coaching staff already knew about my quickness and speed so they eventually tried me in there for the second half because we were behind anyway." Disaster was avoided before christening the new stadium with the historical first ever kick-off touchdown return as Shelby explained, "I first bobbled the ball. I caught it, then I dropped it and by that time players are zeroing in on you. I went a couple of yards up the middle and then broke out to the right side and never stopped." Thoughts of red-shirting had dissipated in Shelby's mind as his second score of the afternoon on a two yard run became his fourth touchdown in

the first two games of 1973.

Shelby's only century rushing mark performance of 104 yards came as a junior in his native state against the Ole Miss Rebels at Jackson's War Memorial Stadium in a 1974 nationally televised game. Alabama fell behind on an unusual defensive play. "We went to the left side and quarterback Richard Todd pitched to Mike Stock who was playing right halfback. The defensive lineman (Gary Turner from Sylacauga) picked it off and never broke stride on his way to a 42-yard touchdown." Shelby responded in the third quarter with a career-long 58-yard cut back run tying the game at 21-21. "I made that cut between three players and somehow squeezed by them and continued across field and never broke stride," he said.

Playing within the stingy wishbone offense predicated on spreading the football to numerous ball carriers, his limited opportunities nevertheless produced big plays. During Shelby's career, a religious ritual was enacted each time the Crimson Tide's defense forced a punt. Emanating from the pews of the football cathedrals known as Bryant-Denny Stadium and Legion Field, one could hear the congregation's chorus led by the clergy of Alabama cheerleaders accompanied by the rhythmic drum beats of the Million Dollar Band chanting, "Run Willie Run'. "It was inspiring to me because every time I touched the ball I felt like I had to score or do something big in order for us to win the game. Most times I did," reflected Shelby.

Coach Moore concurred with the elusive 1974 All-SEC player. "Willie had great breakaway speed and a good eye for the field," Moore said. "He was capable of making a big play any time he touched the football in conjunction with the ability and the gift of having good eyes to see what's happening on the field in order to take advantage of it." Shelby led the team three consecutive years in kickoff and punt return yardage and is the all-time single season leader totaling 45 punt returns in 1975. His three career punt returns for touchdowns place him tied for second with current Alabama star Javier Arenas and one behind the leader, David Palmer.

Shelby recalled the halftime atmosphere during the few times Alabama trailed. "Any time we were behind, it would get so quiet in the locker room you could hear mice trip on cotton," he said. "You could see it in the coaches' eyes when Coach Bryant walked into the room. It filtered down to the players. The players knew it was a no-nonsense, no-playing-around time. He would go hard at his players for not playing aggressively and not representing the Alabama tradition."

A special tradition unknown by Shelby until he matriculated to Alabama was the four fingered fourth quarter salute. "We knew the fourth quarter was our time and we had to bring it to win the game."

Shelby's triple threat responsibilities created cuisine opportunities. "We had two cafeterias in Bryant Hall," he said. "Once the season began you had a side for the players who graded winners. And then you had the side for the others. I always graded a winner because I was on the kick-off return and punt return teams along with being a running back. Out of those three, I graded out a winner so every week, I was on the steak and lobster side."

In the spring of 1976, Coach Craft contacted Coach Bryant about a month before the scheduled "Willie Shelby Day" to be held in Purvis. "He said he would come if the event was for Willie and not for him," Craft said.

Selected in the fifth round of the 1976 draft by Cincinnati, he played two seasons for the Bengals and one year with the Saint Louis Cardinals under legendary Coach Bud Wilkinson. Shelby was gratified, yet not overly enthused about playing professional football. "I always liked the level I was on," Shelby said. "When I was in high school, I just loved playing high school ball. When I went to college, I just loved playing college football. It wasn't like I was saying I want to be a professional player and I'm trying to get to the next level. Things just seemed to fall in place and I ended up being there."

Traveling around the league, he had a unique customary practice with each visit. "They have an NFL logo in the center of every field. I said I'm going to stand on this logo so one day I can think back and remember I stood at the center of the stadium."

Shelby settled in Atlanta after his NFL career ended after 1978 to begin life as a teacher, coach, athletics director and for the last five years assistant principal at Booker T. Washington High School. He lives with his second wife Robin and two sons from a previous marriage, Brandon and Bryan. Brandon, who works for an Atlanta insurance company, garnered 2004 All-America honors as a linebacker for the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, where he recorded 11 career interceptions. Bryan is a junior at Valdosta State.

Shelby's administrative and athletic duties preclude him from getting away on weekends to visit Tuscaloosa often. Traveling through town on his way back to Mississippi years ago, he did stop with his two young sons to visit the campus and tour the Paul W. Bryant Museum. He did attend an Auburn game and visited with his roommate of four years, the deceased former All-SEC Alabama defensive back, Tyrone King.

Shelby has developed a love for golf in the last seven years and is a scratch player, shooting in the low 70s.

Although he viewed the successful exploits of Alabama's program on television, he never envisioned having a chance to wear the crimson and white as his ninth grade aspirations were modest. "Pearl River Junior College was my highest ambition at that time," Shelby said. Luckily for Alabama football, he went much further. His trademark bouffant Afro haircut has been cropped and he's added a few pounds since his playing days. But in the minds of Bama followers, there is still only one Willie. And they remember, "Run Willie Run!" ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the 1973 Alabama national championship team will have a 35-year reunion in Tuscaloosa in conjunction with this year's Kentucky game on October 4.

 TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 1-888-979-0979

SPORTSNOTES BY 'BAMA STAFF

'BAMA Scorecard

Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

BACK TO ATLANTA

Barring an unforeseen development, Alabama will open the 2009 football season in similar manner to this year. The Crimson Tide will head back to Atlanta for a nationally-televised neutral site game from the GeorgiaDome. Bama opened this season against Clemson in Atlanta.

Alabama has added Tulane to the schedule and Bama was expected to go to New Orleans to play the Green Wave next season. However, Alabama and ESPN worked to find Tulane a substitute opponent for Alabama. BYU agreed to the plan. It is known that Tulane will get some benefit from agreeing to the change in that ESPN will televise some Green Wave events. And Alabama, which is playing several home games against Tulane in exchange for one road contest in New Orleans, will go to the Louisiana Superdome in 2012.

Now Alabama will open the 2009 season against Virginia Tech.

It will be the third consecutive season that Alabama has played a neutral site game. Last year the Tide went to Jacksonville, Florida, to play Florida State.

A MATTER OF TIME

Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore doesn't know when Bryant-Denny Stadium will be expanded to over 100,000. But when the word comes to begin that construction, Moore wants the athletics department to be ready.

To that end, he has architects making plans for the next addition to the Crimson Tide's football stadium.

The starting date will be determined by University President Dr. Robert E. Witt and The University Board of Trustees.

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

It was an easy assumption to make. Mal Moore is in his mid-60s and is likely to retire in a few years. In August, Moore announced that Dave Hart, Jr., former director of athletics at Florida State and East Carolina, would join the Alabama athletics department as executive director of athletics.

University of Alabama

Many were quick to make the mental leap to Hart being Alabama's athletics director in waiting.

That may prove to be true, but both Moore and Hart made it clear that the announcement of Hart's return to Alabama was for the job that was announced. Hart, a former Alabama basketball player and graduate assistant coach, will run the day-to-day administrative functions of the athletics department.

"A lot of people would like to have my job, but I like having it, too," Moore joked.

Moore did say that having an experienced administrator like Hart would enable Moore to concentrate on what have proved to be his strengths as an athletics director—facilities and fund-raising.

Hart came to Alabama from the Atlantic Coast Conference, where he had been serving as an advisor to ACC Commisioner John Swofford.

A 1971 Alabama graduate, Hart played basketball for the Crimson Tide under legendary Coach C.M. Newton and earned a master's degree from UA in 1972 while working as a graduate assistant basketball coach. Moore said that one of Hart's duties will be overseeing the basketball program, a duty previously held by Wendell Hudson. Hudson, a former teammate of Hart, moved from associate athletics director to head coach of Alabama's women's basketball team.

Among other things, Hart will fill the role of two former senior administrators in Moore's department. In addition to Hudson, Bama lost Johnny Williams to retirement earlier this year.

Hart said there were no other schools at which he would have been interested in Moore's offer, but that he enthusiastically accepted the offer to return to his alma mater.

He said, "This is certainly a unique circumstance and opportunity. My respect for Mal Moore as a person, and my strong feelings for the Crimson Tide, led me to this decision. I look forward to contributing to a very bright future for Alabama athletics."

Hart served more than 12 years (1995-2007) as director of athletics at Florida State, earning a reputation as one of the nation's top athletics directors. Prior to his tenure at FSU, Hart spent 12 years at East Carolina including eight as director of athletics.

At FSU he had a program that featured the powerful football program of Coach Bobby Bowden, but also was competitive for the Sears Trophy given to the nation's strongest overall athletics department.

Hart is married to the former Pam Humble, a Tuscaloosa native and 1970 graduate of The University, and the couple has three children: Rick, Jamie and Kelly. Rick is a third generation athletics administrator, serving as director of athletics at UT-Chattanooga.

POWER

One could add another strength (beyond building facilities and raising the money to pay for them) to Mal Moore's abilities as Alabama athletics director.

According to Forbes Magazine, Moore also hired the most powerful coach in sports when he wooed Nick Saban from the Miami Dolphins to take over the Crimson Tide football program.

The September 1 issue of the business magazine, in an article written by Monte Burke, Saban and his guidance of the Crimson Tide program were examined. The article said he was the most powerful coach in sports without qualification.

The cover photo featured Saban with Bryant-Denny Stadium in the background. Saban is the first college football coach to be

featured on the cover of Forbes since the publication began in 1917. It worked out well for Forbes, a sold-out issue that resulted in a re-printing for additional copies

CAP AND GOWN

Three current and five former Crimson Tide football players were awarded undergraduate degrees in The University of Alabama August Commencement exercises.

Three current Alabama players had a busy day, taking part in the morning graduation event, then hustling to Bryant-Denny Stadium for a pre-season scrimmage. They were quarterback John Parker Wilson, senior safety Rashad Johnson, and junior offensive tackle Drew Davis.

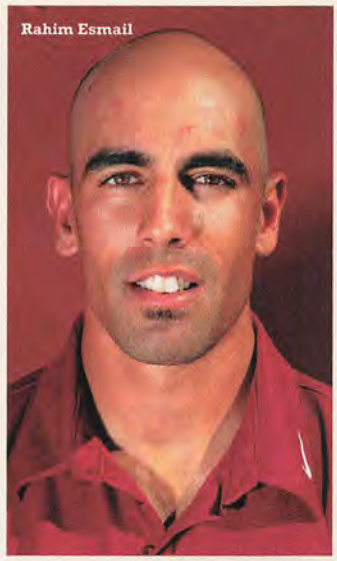
Alabama Coach Nick Saban said, "John Parker Wilson, Drew Davis and Rashad Johnson, are guys who have certainly impacted this team in a positive way. I want to congratulate them and their families and I know they are extremely happy. This is what we want guys to do when they come to The University of Alabama. This is what affects the quality of their life forever."

Johnson, who hopes to attend law school, earned his degree in criminal justice and Wilson and Davis both earned degrees in marketing.

Other current Crimson Tide players who have earned a degree are senior center Antoine Caldwell (consumer science) and senior wide receivers Will Oakley (marketing) and Nikita Stover (human environmental science). Five of UA's nine scholarship football seniors will have earned their undergraduate degrees prior to the start of the 2008 season. Davis would push that number to six, but is only a junior in eligibility.

Five former UA players were also graduated in August, including Charles Hoke (finance), Zeke Knight (human environmental science), Terrence Jones (human environmental science), Tyrone Prothro (human environmental science) and B.J. Stabler (business).

Saban spoke specifically to Prothro's accomplishment. Prothro was an outstanding wide receiver whose career was ended by a broken leg. Saban said he did not know Prothro well, "but I have a tremendous amount of respect for him." The coach pointed out that any athlete can be an injury away from retirement and that it was a tribute to Prothro that he stayed focused and continued to a successful conclusion of his education.


Rahim Esmail

University of Alabama

NEW TENNIS ASSISTANT

A former men's tennis star in the SEC and on the professional tour, has joined the Alabama women's tennis staff of Coach Jenny Mainz. Rahim Esmail, who played at Kentucky 2001-04 before pursuing a career on the professional circuit, recently completed work on a master's degree in Sports Administration at Eastern Kentucky. He served as an assistant coach at Eastern Kentucky. He had played two years on the professional circuit.

He was an assistant for both the men's and women's tennis teams at Eastern Kentucky. Esmail was responsible for on-court coaching, recruiting and numerous administrative tasks.

During his professional career on the ATP Tour, Esmail reached the finals of three professional tournaments, once in singles and twice in doubles. At Kentucky in 2002 he had a 31-4 singles record and was 23-2 in doubles to help the Wildcats climb to number four in national rankings. He was team captain.

STEEEERIKE!

Alabama redshirt freshman right-handed pitcher Tyler White posted some phenomenal strikeout numbers in the Coastal Plain League this summer.

Playing for the Wilmington (North Carolina) Sharks, White led the team with 55 strikeouts and 15.15 strikeouts per nine innings .He was 0-3 with three saves and 2.48 ERA in 13 appearances this summer in the CPL. White worked 32 2/3 innings and allowed nine earned runs, 12 hits and 22 walks. In his lone start of the season, he threw six no-hit innings and allowed one unearned run with seven strikeouts on July 30.

White redshirted at Alabama during the 2008 season.

Look Inside
The new Alabama
Navy Blazer
Also Available In Crimson
Size 38 Short to 52 Long
$295.00
Ladies 4-14
$275.00
plus tax, shipping

The Locker Room
Call toll free
1-800-749-0992
1218 University Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
www.locker-room.biz

PRESTIGIOUS PLAY

Two of Alabama's promising young baseball stars, Josh Rutledge and Ross Wilson, spent their summer in the prestigious wooden-bat Cape Cod League.

Rutledge played for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, while Wilson played for the Bourne Braves.

Rutledge played in 41 games for the Red Sox and earned starts at shortstop (23), outfield (19), second base (6) and third base (3).He hit .294 (48 for 163) with one home run and 10 RBI. He wrapped up the summer with 13 extra-base hits, including nine doubles and three triples, and scored a team high 26 runs while pacing the Red Sox with 48 hits.

Wilson played in 39 games for the Braves, including starts at second base (22), third base (8) and shortstop (1). He finished the season hitting .217 (32 for 147) in the wooden-bat league with one home run and 13 RBI with 13 runs scored, five doubles and one triple for the Braves.

TITLISTS

Three Alabama baseball players – outfielder Alex Kubal, pitcher Austin Evans and infielder Jon Kelton – led the Thunder Bay (Ontario) Border Cats to the best record in the Northwoods League this summer.

Kubal played in 46 games for the Border Cats and hit .274 (46 for 168) with five extra base hits, 19 RBI and 23 runs scored in the wooden-bat league.He started 43 games in the outfield and committed only one error all summer. Kubal will be a senior for the Crimson Tide this season.

Kelton played in 52 games and hit .225 with six extra base hits, including one home run, 19 RBI and 24 runs scored. He started 29 games in the outfield and 14 games at second base. Defensively, Kelton made only error the entire summer. Kelton will be a redshirt freshman for the Tide in 2009.

Evans posted a 3-1 record and 2.95 ERA in his 13 appearances on the mound this summer. He also made four starts. The right-hander worked 39-2/3 innings and allowed 13 earned runs and 27 hits with 22 walks and 31 strikeouts. Evans was third on the team in total appearances. He will be a sophomore at Alabama this season.

TRACK HONORS

The Alabama women's track and field team was named a 2008 Division I All-Academic Track and Field team. To be nominated, the team must carry a minimum 3.00 team cumulative grade-point average. Alabama carried a 3.09 overall grade-point average.

Nicole Okolo and Betty Rotich also earned accolades by being named individually to the women's academic honor squad.

On the men's side, Alabama track athletes David Chaplin and Brandon Spradley were named to the All-Academic Team.

The recognition is based on athletic achievement in indoor and/or outdoor track and field and academics. To qualify a student-athlete must have compiled a minimum of a 3.25 cumulative grade point average and met either the NCAA Division I Indoor automatic or provisional qualifying standard or the NCAA Division I Outdoor regional or national qualifying standard in their respective event.

HAPPY NBA TRAILS

Former Alabama basketball star Roy Rogers was hired as an assistant coach by the New Jersey Nets. Nets President Rod Thorn

QUALITY CO-OP PRODUCTS
FALL SALE
For a store near you
visit us at www.alafarm.com
The DOUBLE X-POD™ 2 Person Stand Alone
SUMMIT TREESTANDS
Perfect for two people. One can call, rattle or video without setting up another stand.
#82037
AFC #478715
$329.99
Weight: 105 lbs.
Height to platform: 9 feet
Platform size: 44.5" x 18.5"
Maximum total weight: 500 lbs.
Steel construction
2 X full back rest
Padded, fully adjustable gunrest
Seats can be adjusted independently
SURROUND SEAT
#85117. AFC #478720. Full coverage enclosed seat with convenient pockets within easy reach.
$69.99
FFA - 4-H Collectors Pocket Knife
AFC No. 478792. Commemorative knife includes metal case. Surgical steel clip and spey blades. A portion of the proceeds go to FFA and 4-H.
CASE
$49.99
Reverse view.
TRAPPER YELLOW HANDLE KNIFE
#161. AFC #402541. Blade is chrome vanadium steel. Clip and spey blades. 4-1/8 inches closed; 3.5 ounces.
CASE
$35.99
Sod Buster, Jr. $22.99
#095 AFC#402142. Jet-black synthetic handle with etching. 3-5/8 inches closed; 2.1 ounces.
Smith & Wesson Folding Knife
#SW3001. AFC #402121. 3.367 inches closed. 2.633 inch blade. 2.39 oz.
$31.99
Smith & Wesson Caping Knife
#CK301 AFC #402113. 6.75 inches overall. 3.25 inch blade. 3.5 oz.
$13.99
OLD TIMER
Gunstock Trapper Lockblade Knife
#194OT
AFC #491608
$16.99
Senior OLD TIMER Stockman Knife
#8OT AFC #491600. Clip, spey and sheepfoot blades. 4" closed.
$22.99

said that Rogers would join Brian Hill, Tom Barrise and Doug Overton as an assistant on the staff of Head Coach Lawrence Frank.

"We are pleased to add Roy to Coach Frank's staff," said Thorn. "He has gained valuable knowledge and experience coaching in the D-League (NBA Development League) over the past several seasons, and we feel he will be an excellent mentor to our players."

Rogers most recently served as an assistant coach for the Austin Toros of the NBA Development League during the 2007-08 season. Prior to his stint in Austin, Rogers spent two seasons (2005-06 and 2006-07) with the Tulsa 66ers.He started his coaching career in 2004 as an assistant with the Huntsville Flight, now the Albuquerque Thunderbirds.

Selected 22nd overall in the 1996 NBA Draft out of Alabama, Rogers played three years in the NBA. In 137 career games with four teams (Vancouver, Boston, Toronto and Denver), Rogers averaged 4.8 points and 3.5 rebounds. Rogers also played four seasons (2000-04) of professional basketball internationally, in Russia, Italy, Greece and Poland.

FLAG BEARER

Former Alabama two-time All-America Tahesia Harrigan had one of the top honors bestowed upon her at the Olympic Games, even before setting foot in the starting blocks. The native of the British Virgin Islands was the flag bearer for her country in the opening ceremonies in National Stadium in Beijing, China.

Harrigan earned All-America honors in 2005 and 2006 for Tide Coach Sandy Fowler.

ALABAMA GYMNASTS STAR

The Alabama Gymnastics team of Coach Sarah Patterson once again stands among the nation's elite when it comes to the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches' academic rankings.

Alabama was one of just two teams that finished in the Super Six at the NCAA Championships and among the top 15 nationally in team grade point average (Utah the other). Alabama posted its 24th top-six national finish last April and was 13th in team GPA. The Crimson Tide was the top ranked Southeastern Conference school with its 3.48 GPA.

"It is always our goal, our mission, to be among the nation's very best in the gym and the classroom and there's no doubt that we accomplished that last season," Patterson said. "I'm very pleased with the dedication and hard work that our ladies showed which resulted in another outstanding showing academically."

Individually 12 members of last year's team earned Scholastic All-America honors, which requires a 3.5 or better GPA. It was the most since 2002 when 13 Tide gymnasts came away with the accolade. Sophomore Kassi Price, a two-time All-America, earned the honor for the second time. Price has earned a perfect 4.0 GPA every semester of her Tide career.

All-America Brittany Magee, Amanda Montgomery and Cassie Martin all earned the honor for the third year in a row while All-America and SEC Champion Casey Overton, three-time SEC Champion Ricki Lebegern and Alyssa Chapman earned the honor for the second time. Ashley O'Neal earned her first Scholastic All-America.

Kaitlin White finished out her Alabama career as a two-time Scholastic All-America while the Tide's three rookies, All-America Kayla Hoffman, Jennifer Iovino and Megan Mashburn, all started their careers by earning the honor.

Hoffman's success was particularly impressive. She came to Alabama after being home-schooled. Her first class at Alabama marked the first time she'd been in a classroom environment since the third grade. She excelled from the start, earning a 4.0 GPA in her first semester.

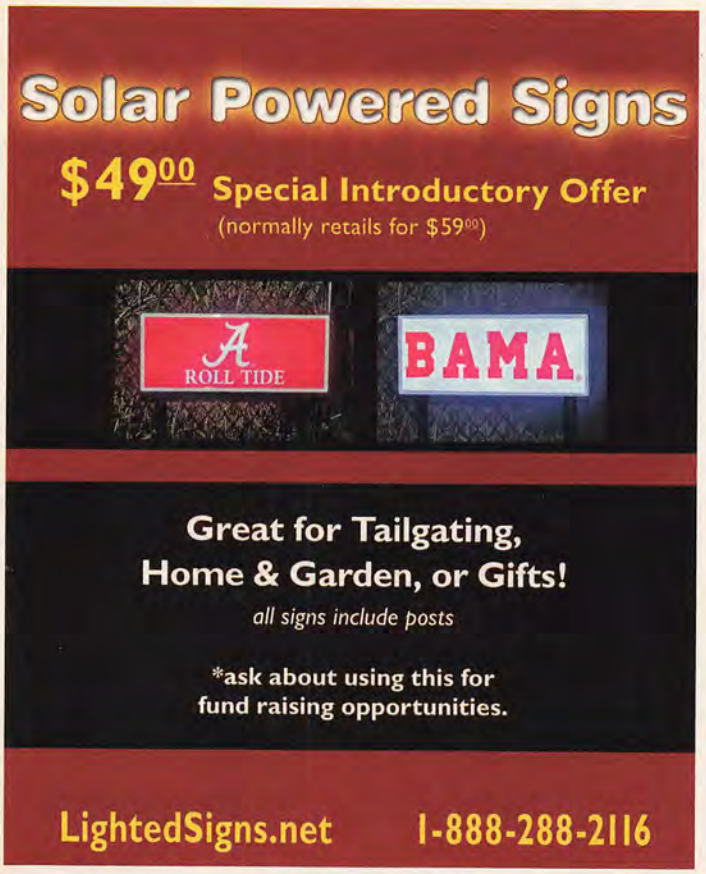
SEC-CBS AGREEMENT

The Southeastern Conference and CBS Sports reached an historic 15-year contract extension for CBS to broadcast SEC football and basketball games. It was announced by Sean McManus, president, CBS News and Sports, and Mike Slive, commissioner of the SEC.

In the new agreement, beginning with the 2009-10 season, CBS Sports continues to be the exclusive national network broadcaster of SEC home football games, including the SEC Championship Game. CBS Sports will showcase the top conference matchups each week of the package with the "SEC Game of the Week." The agreement also includes a prime time game and doubleheader opportunities. In addition, CBS Sports continues its coverage of SEC regular-season basketball.

The SEC and CBS have had a working relationship for the past 13 years.

In addition to the broadcast rights on CBS Sports, this comprehensive long-team deal includes certain digital, Internet, wireless, Video-on-Demand, data and enhanced highlight rights across all CBS platforms, including CBS College Sports Network and CBSSports.com. Also, simulcasts of CBS Sports games will be available for distribution by the CBS College Sports Network. ■



Vonage™

UNLIMITED Local & Long Distance Calling

$24.99

per month†

Switch to Vonage and Save up to $300 a Year on Your Phone Bill‡!

Say No to Higher Phone Bills!

- Our price starts low and stays low℠. Satisfaction Guaranteed<!
- No bundles, no hassles, no introductory pricing — just reliable phone service at a reliable price!

Special Offer

$24.99†/month

Try 1 Month FREE!

see below for details

Easy to Switch, Easy to Save

- 25 Premium Features at no extra cost
- Free calls to 5 select European countries[v]
- International locations for as low as 1 cent per minute[v]
- Keep your current phone number^
- Vonage works with your existing home phone and high-speed Internet connection
- Award-winning quality and reliability

Call: 1.800.581.7132

FREE MONTH OFFER ON $24.99 UNLIMITED RESIDENTIAL PLAN ONLY. PLAN FEE WAIVED BUT ALL OTHER CHARGES APPLY. NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.
V Free Calls to Europe Offer (Available Only with Unlimited Residential Plan) Does Not Apply To Certain Call Types, Such As Calls to Cell Phones, and is Limited to Italy, France, Spain, UK and Ireland. Other International Rates May Vary. See http://vonage.com/intrates for Details. Vonage 911 service operates differently than traditional 911. See www.vonage.com/911 for details. High-Speed Internet Required. Alarms and other systems may not be compatible. † Rates exclude: broadband service, regulatory and activation fees and certain other charges, equipment, taxes, & shipping. International calls billed per minute. Offer valid in the US only. See Terms of Service for details. ‡ $300 savings claim based on 3/07 survey of competing land line service providers. For complete details visit www.vonage.com/compare1. <30-day money back guarantee is refunded for any paid activation fee, 1st month service charge, initial shipping charges and termination fee. Applicable only to first ordered line per account. Available only in the event of timely cancellation for subscribers who have not exceeded 500 minutes of usage and who obtain a valid return authorization number from 1-VONAGE-HELP, and return of equipment in original condition and packaging within 14 days of cancellation. Refund will not include charges for taxes, international usage, payphone calls to Vonage toll free numbers and directory assistance. Offer revocable. ^ Where available. The number transfer process takes approximately 10 business days from the time you confirm your transfer request. ©2008 Vonage.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS START WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE.

There's strong. And then there's Army Strong. You taught them right from wrong. You told them they could do anything. Now they want the discipline, leadership training and college benefits that come from being in the U.S. Army. If your son or daughter wants to talk about joining, listen. You just might be proud of what they have to say. Find out more at goarmy.com/for_parents.

U.S.ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

Check with your Army Recruiter to see if there are some new bonuses. Do you have what it takes to be Army Strong?

Stop by and see your Army Recruiter.

©2007. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.